This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

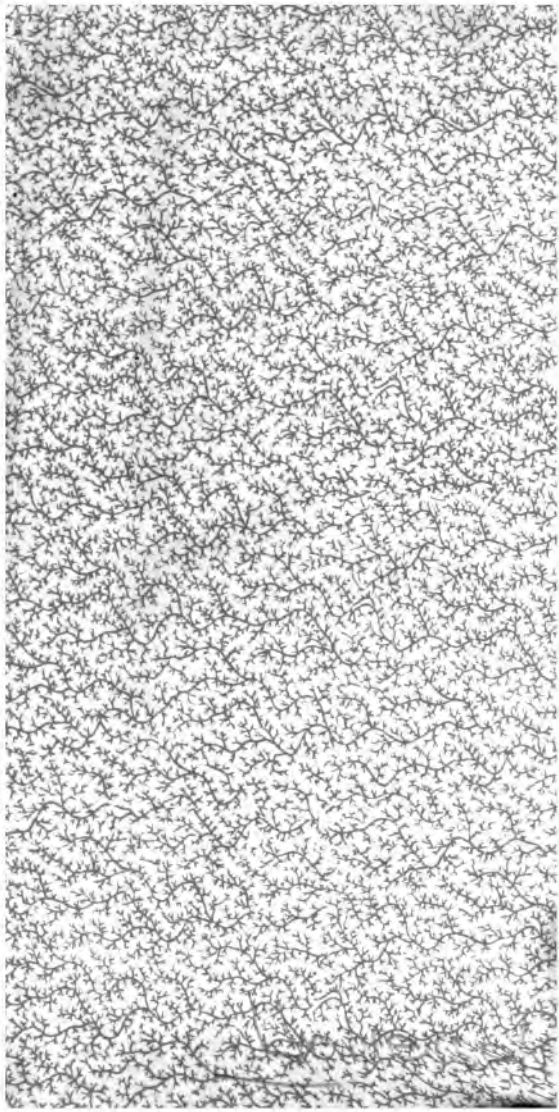
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

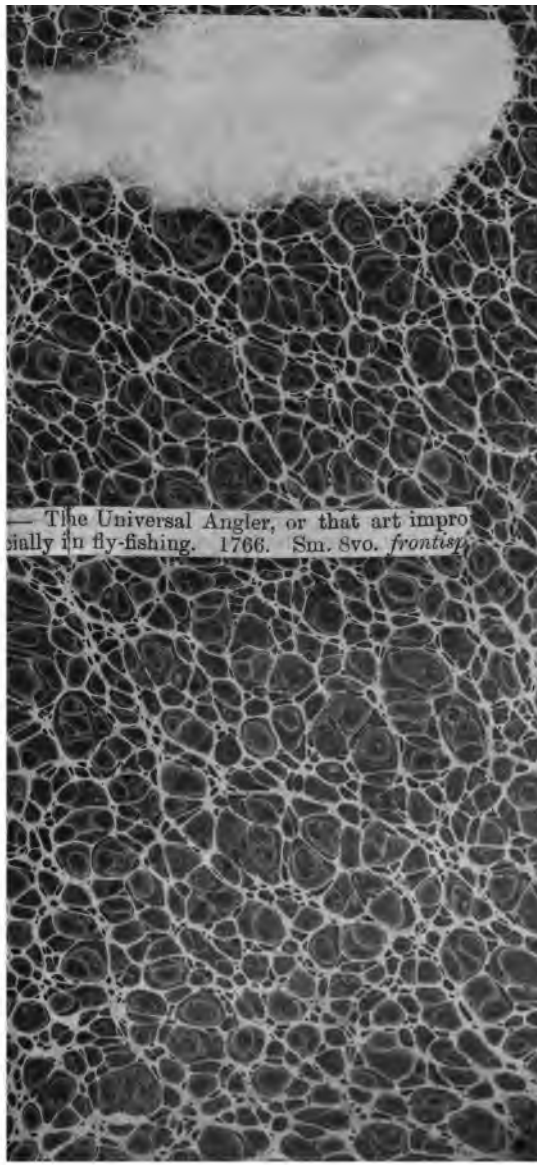
About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES
3433 06737727 9

Thomas Westwood.





— The Universal Angler, or that art impro
cially in fly-fishing. 1766. Sm. 8vo. *frontisp*

F. Westwood

Universal Ech/2

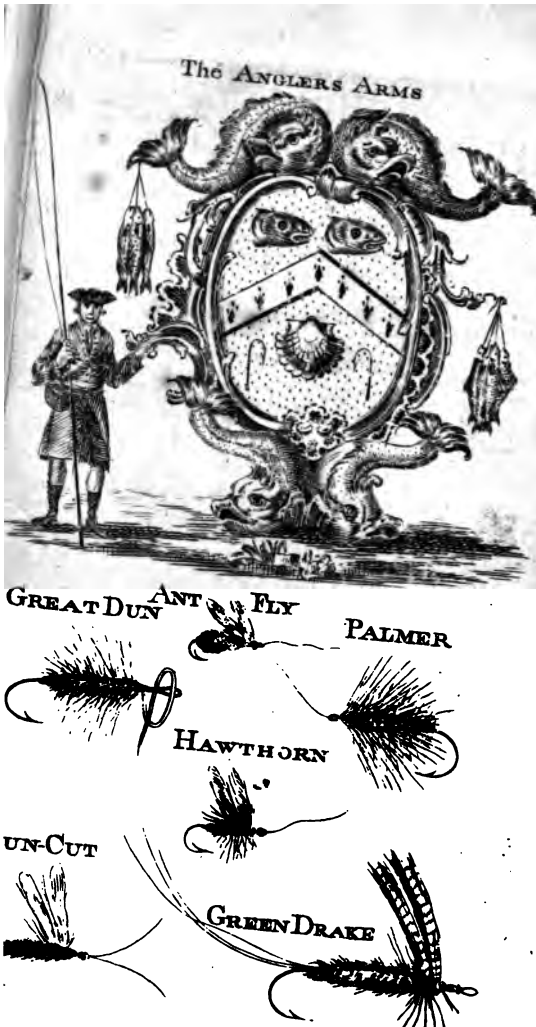
S. S. Universal Ang

321

Mr. White of Crickhowell, speaking of Bowlker's Art of Angling, says: "this scientific treatise has been impartly printed 1768 (1766) under the title of "Universal Angler", with the addition of Cuts of the Fish from Sir J. Hawkins, and observations on the Flounder in the Severn."

The present work is in fact an appropriation of Bowlker's, with a few insignificant changes.

F. W.


The Anglers Arms
Great Dun
Ant Fly
Palmer
Hawthorn
un-Cut
Green Drake

THE

Universal Angler;

OR,

That ART Improved,

IN ALL ITS PARTS,

ESPECIALLY IN

FLY-FISHING:

DESCRIBING

The several Sorts of Fresh-water FISH, with their proper best BAITS.

ALSO,

The Names, Colours, and Seasons of all the most useful FLIES;

TOGETHER

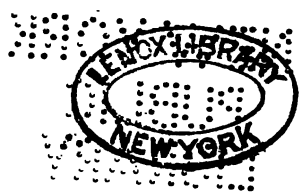
With Directions for making each FLY Artificially, in the most exact Manner.

The whole Interspersed with many Curious and Uncommon Observations.

Adorned with CUTS of the several FISH herein treated on.

LONDON Printed;
And sold by all the Booksellers in Town and Country.

MDCCLXVI.


LENOX LIBRARY
NEW YORK

GENERAL

RULES and CAUTIONS.

I. WHEN you have hooked a fiſh, never ſuffer him to run out with the line; but keep your rod bent, and as near perpendicular as you can; by this method the top plies to every pull he makes, and you prevent the ſtraining of your line. For the ſame reaſon,

II. Never raiſe a large fiſh out of the water by taking the hair to which the hook is faſtened, or indeed any part of the line into your hand; but either put a landing net under him, or for want of that your hat: you may indeed in fly-fiſhing, lay hold of your line to draw a fiſh to you; but this muſt be done with caution.

III. Your ſilk, for whipping hooks and other fine work, muſt be very ſmall; uſe it double, and wax it (and indeed every other ſort of binding) with ſhoemaker's wax; if your wax is too ſtiff, temper it with tallow.

IV. Incloſe the knots and joints of your line in a little pill of wax, preſſed very cloſe, and the ſuperfluities pinched off; this will ſoon harden, and prevent the knots from drawing.

V. If for ſtrong fiſhing you uſe the graſs, which, when you can get it fine, is to be preferred to gut, remember to ſoak it always an hour in water before you uſe it: this will make it tough and prevent its kinking.

VI. Whenever you begin to fiſh, wet the ends of the joints of your rod; which, as it makes them ſwell, will prevent their looſening. And,

VII. If you happen with rain or otherwiſe to wet your rod, ſo that you cannot pull the joints aſunder, turn the ferrel round a few times in the flame of a candle, and they will eaſily ſeparate.

VIII. Before you fix the loop of briſtle to your hook in order to make a fly; to prevent its drawing beſure to ſinge the ends of it; do the ſame by the hair to which at any time you whip a hook.

IX. Make flies in warm weather only; for in cold your waxed ſilk will not draw.

X. In rainy weather, or when the ſeaſon for fiſhing is over repair whatever damage your tackle has ſuſtained.

XI. Never regard what bunglers and ſlovens tell you, but believe that neatneſs in your tackle, and a nice and curious hand in all your work are abſolutely neceſſary.

XII. Never fiſh in any water that is not common without firſt obtaining leave of the owners, which is ſeldom denied to thoſe who deſerve it.

Laſtly. Remember that the wit and invention of man were given for greater purpoſes than to enſnare ſilly fiſh: and that, how delightful ſoever Angling may appear, it ceaſes to be innocent when uſed otherwiſe than as mere recreation.

CONTENTS.

) N T E N T S.

'BER *of* RIVERS *in* England p. 3
mes of the ſeveral freſh-water Fiſh 7
LMON, *the Spawning-time and Feed* ibid
nts — — 8
AMLETS, SALMON-PINKS, *or* SHED-; *the* LAST SPRINGS, *and* GRAVEL--SPRINGS — 10
IKE — — — 13
vning time — — 15
rent Methods of taking the PIKE ibid
ROUT — 21
vning-time — — 22
nts — — 23
ths for Angling for TROUTS 25
RAYLING, *his Seaſon, and Shape* 26
vning-time — 27
nts — — ibid
ake the GRAYLING — 28
EARCH, *his Spawning-time & Shape* 29
ake the PEARCH — 30
ENCH — 32
ning time and Seaſon — 33
g time and Baits — ibid
ARP, *his Shape and Colour* 35
ming time — 36
nts — — 37
g time and Baits — ibid
ons on the Breeding of CARP 39

How

How to preſerve and feed Fiſh in Pools
Of the BREAM
The Spawning time
Their Haunts
How and with what Baits to take the BREAM
Of the FLOUNDER
His Haunts
His Biting-time and Baits
Obſervations on the SEVERN FLOUNDER
Of the BARBEL
The Spawning-time
His Haunts
His Biting time and Baits
Of the CHUB, CHEVIN, *or* BOTLING;
Spawning time, Seaſon, and Shape
Their Haunts
Their Biting-time and Baits
Of the ROACH *and* DACE
Their Spawning time
Their Haunts
Their Biting-time and Baits
Of the GUDGEON
His Haunts and Spawning-time
His Biting-time and Baits
Of the RUFF *or* POPE
His Haunts and Spawning time
His Biting time and Baits
Of the BLEAK
Of the CHAR *and* GUINIAD
Of the EEL
His Manner of Breeding or Spawning
His Biting-time and Baits
Of the MINNOW *or* PINK

LOACH —— 85
ULL'S-HEAD *or* MILLER'S-THUMB 86
STICKLE-BACK *or* JACK SHARP 87
AMPREY —— 88
SHAD —— 89
T-FISHING —— 91
veral Sorts of FLIES *and their Seasons* 92
D FLY —— —— 94
JE-DUN FLY —— — 95
)WN FLY *or* DUN-DRAKE 96
W-DUNG FLY —— 97
)NE FLY —— —— 98
ANAM FLY *or* GREEN-TAIL 99
DER FLY —— — 100
ACK GNAT — — 101
ACK CATERPILLER FLY 102
RTLE IRON-BLUE FLY ibid
LLOW SALLY FLY — 103
NON FLY —— 104
)RN FLY —— 105
AY FLY *or* YELLOW CADOW 106
EY DRAKE —— 108
LE FLY —— 115
Y-COLOURED BLUE FLY ibid
DIS FLY —— 116
RN FLY —— 117
D SPINNER —— 118
UE GNAT —— ibid
RGE RED ANT FLY — 119
RGE BLACK ANT FLY — ibid
ELCHMAN'S BUTTON — 120
RTLE RED *and* BLACK ANT FLIES 121
RTLE WHIRLING BLUE — ibid

The

The LITTLE PALE BLUE —— 122
The WILLOW FLY —— ibid
The DRAGON FLY —— 125
The KING-FISHER *or* PEACOCK FLY 126
The BROWN NIGHT FLY —— 127
The WHITE NIGHT FLY —— 128
The Manner of Making and Using the ARTIFICIAL FLY —— 129
Of BOTTOM-FISHING —— 132
The COD BAIT — — ibid
How to Use the COD-BAIT —— 133
The GRASS-HOPPER —— 134
The CABBAGE WORM *or* CABBAGE GRUB 136
Of MINNOW-FISHING —— 139
Of MAGGOT-FISHING — 141
Of WORM-FISHING —— 147
The FLESH-COLOUR'D RED WORM ibid
The BRANDLING —— 148
The LITTLE GILT TAIL *or* TAG WORM ibid
The PEACOCK RED WORM —— 149
The LOB WORM *or* DEW WORM — ibid
The WHITE WORM *or* MARL WORM 150
The DOCK WORM *or* SQUIRREL TAIL 151
The SEDGE WORM —— ibid
The COW-DUNG BOBB —— 152
TROUT-FISHING *with the* WORM — ibid
Of PALMER WORMS —— 154
Of the BEETLE —— — 156

THE

THE

Art of ANGLING;

OR,

COMPLEAT FLY-FISHER.

ANGLING has always been deſervedly reckoned one of the moſt innocent and delightful recreations of the ſportſman: it gives the mind a very agreeable and amuſing entertainment, and at the ſame time contributes not a little to the health and vigour of the body, by the moderate and gentle exerciſe it requires, as well as by the wholſome and refreſhing air that plays upon the water. The deſign of the following ſheets, is to contribute what I can towards the improvement and perfection of

this excellent Art, particularly of that delightful branch of it, Fly-fiſhing; wherein the reader may be aſſured, that the directions he will meet with are not the trite and common ones frequently taken upon truſt from others, and generally found unſucceſsful upon trial: but they will be, for the moſt part, new and uncommon, founded upon repeated obſervations of my own, and confirmed by many years practice and experience in the Art.

THE manner in which I intend to treat this ſubject will be this. After mentioning the rivers (at leaſt the chiefeſt of them) which are the ſcenes of the Angler's diverſion, to deſcribe the different kinds of fiſh their inhabitants: their ſeveral natures and qualities: their haunts, and places of feeding and retirement: the various kinds of foods and baits adapted to each particular kind of fiſh, together with the moſt proper times and ſeaſons of uſing them: and more eſpecially the great diverſity of flies which nature produces for them, in a wonderful, yet regular ſucceſſion: with directions for making the artificial fly, and a particular accoun of the neceſſary materials, as feathers, furrs, &c. requiſite to make every ſort of fly in ſuch manner as to have the neareſt reſemblance to the natural.

THE Number of our Rivers in England are by ſome reckoned to be three hundred and twenty-five, moſt of the principal of which are as follow;

Thames.	*Dove.*	*Nyd.*	*Tine.*
Severn.	*Dun.*	*Ouſe.*	*Teſt.*
Trent.	*Dart.*	*Orwell.*	*Teme.*
Humber.	*Eden.*	*Onny.*	*Thryn.*
Medway.	*Eamon.*	*Parret.*	*Tees.*
Tweed.	*Eavenlode.*	*Plim.*	*Ver.*
Wye.	*Ex.*	*Petterel.*	*Uſk.*
Avon.	*Frome.*	*Rother.*	*Ware.*
Are.	*Iſis.*	*Reck.*	*Wever.*
Arun.	*Itchen.*	*Rhea.*	*Weland.*
Blithe.	*Iddle.*	*Roden.*	*Wenſbeck.*
Breton.	*Kennet.*	*Ribble.*	*Wey.*
Calder.	*Lea.*	*Rumney.*	*Waveney.*
Cherwell.	*Line.*	*Stour.*	*Witham.*
Churner.	*Lavant.*	*Swift.*	*Windruſh.*
Chelmer.	*Lon.*	*Stroud.*	*Waſh.*
Coln.	*Lowther.*	*Sow.*	*Willey.*
Clun.	*Lug.*	*Sherburn.*	*Warf.*
Crouch.	*Merſey.*	*Swall.*	*Youre.*
Dee.	*Monnow.*	*Salwarp.*	*Yare.*
Derwent.	*Nen.*	*Tame.*	
Deben.	*Nadder.*	*Tamer.*	

THAMES, the chief river of the iſland, is compoſed of two rivers, Tame and Iſis; the former riſing in Buckinghamſhire, the other about two miles weſt of Cirenceſter, in Glouceſterſhire; and uniting their ſtreams with their names near Dorcheſter, in Oxfordſhire, make a fine beautiful river; from thence is called by the above ſingle name of Thames; which, flowing and journeying on through the ſeveral counties of Berks, Buckingham, Middleſex, Surry, Eſſex, and Kent, joins the Medway in the very mouth of the Britiſh Ocean.

SEVERN is alſo a large and beautiful river, which, for the length of its navigation, may rival or even exceed the former. It has its riſe in Plinlimmon-hill, in Montgomeryſhire, and is capable of carrying large boats and barges in the ſame county. It waſhes in its courſe the walls of Shrewſbury, Worceſter, and Glouceſter, and ſeveral other places of leſs diſtinction, and at laſt diſembogues itſelf into the Briſtol Channel about ſeven miles below that city.

TRENT,

TRENT, ſo called from its producing thirty kinds of fiſh, or from its reception of thirty leſſer rivers, has its fountain in Staffordſhire, and flowing through the ſeveral counties of Nottingham, Lincoln, Leiceſter, and York, augmenteth the turbulent river Humber, the moſt violent current of all the iſland.

HUMBER is not properly a diſtinct river, as not having a ſpring-head of its own, but is rather the mouth or receptacle of divers other rivers, eſpecially the Derwent, Ouſe, and Trent, here confluent and meeting together.

MEDWAY is a Kentiſh river, remarkable for harbouring the royal navy.

TWEED is a river on the north-eaſt bounds of England, dividing it from Scotland; on whoſe banks ſtands the ſtrong and memorable town of Berwick.

WYE is a large and pleaſant river, which runs with a winding courſe through the counties of Brecknock, Hereford, Monmouth, and Glouceſter, and at laſt falls into the Briſtol Channel. There is

another river of the ſame name in Dorſetſhire, (though differently ſpelt) upon the mouth of which ſtands the town of Weymouth, ſo called from its ſituation. It is not unuſual to have ſeveral rivers called by the ſame name, ſometimes three or four; as is remarkable in the names Avon, Stour, Ouſe, and ſome others, of which there are ſeveral ſo called in different parts of England.

THERE may poſſibly be ſome rivers omitted in the preceding catalogue as conſiderable as many of thoſe there ſet down. There are alſo innumerable brooks and rivulets (too many to be particularly taken notice of) that afford the ſportſman as much diverſion as many of the larger rivers. By this means England enjoys the advantage of being better watered than moſt parts of the world; which greatly adds to the fertility of its ſoil, the beauty of the country, and by the great plenty and variety of fiſh here produced, to the delight and convenience of mankind. Theſe I ſhall in the next place proceed to deſcribe.

THE

THE Names of our Freſh-water Fiſh, are,

almon.	*Flounder.*	*Eel.*
almon-Pinks, or	*Barbel.*	*Minnow*, or *Pink.*
aſt-Springs.	*Chub*, or *Botling.*	*Loach.*
ike, or *Luce.*	*Roach.*	*Bullhead.*
rout.	*Dace.*	*Stickle-back*, or *Jack-ſharp.*
rayling.	*Gudgeon.*	*Shad.*
earch.	*Ruff.*	*Lamprey.*
ench.	*Bleak.*	*Lampern.*
arp.	*Chubb.*	*Crawfiſh.*
ream.	*Guiniad.*	

Firſt of the SALMON; *the Spawning Time, and Seaſons for Feed.*

THE Salmon is accounted the king of all freſh-water fiſh, and always breeds in rivers that have an immediate communication to the ſea; yet ſo high or diſtant from it as not to admit any ſalt or brackiſh tincture. He is a fiſh of prey, as his teeth in his mouth, as other fiſh of prey have: when in ſeaſon, he is adorned

with a row of ſmall, round, black ſpots, along the middle of his ſides from head to tail. The Salmons are of ſeveral ſorts, and different appellations: but, for a nice taſte, the Thames Salmon are reckoned to exceed thoſe of any other river. In the river Severn the ſpawning time is in the month of May. The Severn Salmon are likewiſe excellent in their kind, and are firſt in ſeaſon of any river I know of in England; which is from February to the latter end of April.

IT is ſaid that they dig a private hole in the gravel, and there leave their eggs, which early in the following ſpring become Laſt-Springs, or Salmon-Smelts. After they have ſpawned, both melter and ſpawner haſten to the ſea before winter: but if any are ſtopped by flood-gates, wares, or mills, and ſo confined to the freſh-water, they become lean, conſume, and die within a year or two at moſt.

His Haunts.

IN the Spring he returns from ſea into the freſh rivers, where he fattens; the ſea adding greatly to his growth and goodneſs.

eſs. The Salmon delights to prey and ort in ſwift violent ſtreams and large ivers; eſpecially in ſuch waters that have ebbly, gravelly, and, ſometimes, weedy ottoms: is ever reſtleſs, coveting to get ear the ſpring head; when off prey and ort, he ſwims in the deep broad parts, nd, generally, in the middle of the river, ear the ground.

Of his Feeding Time and Baits.

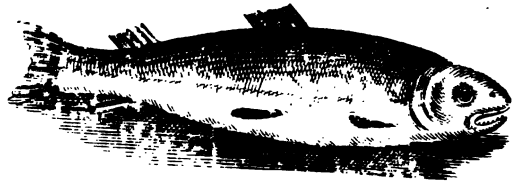
THE Salmon is to be taken with the out's baits. They commonly lie in the iddle of a rough, and upper part of a entle ſtream, when on prey. Their beſt eeding time is from ſix to nine in the renoon, and from three in the afternoon ll ſun-ſetting, in a clear water, when the ind blows moderately againſt the ſtream. he only months for him are, from the eginning of March to the end of Auguſt. le is to be fiſhed for with the ſmall Laſt-ring, fly, or worm bait; but the firſt is ie beſt: you muſt trole for him in the me manner you do for pike, which is articularly deſcribed in the following ieets. When ſtruck, he begins to leap

and plunge, but runs not to the end of the line, as the trout will. Some uſe a ring on the top of the rod, through which the line may run to its extremity; though a wheel about the middle of the rod, or nearer the hand, is more convenient.

Obſervations and Remarks on the little SALMONS, *called* SAMLETS, SALMON-PINKS, *or* SHEDDERS: *and alſo on the* LAST-SPRINGS, *and* GRAVEL-LAST-SPRINGS.

THESE ſmall Salmons being found in our rivers of ſeveral ſizes, and going under different names in ſeveral places, may be a reaſon why ſome have thought that the above ſmall fry of the Salmon are different ſpecies or ſorts of fiſh: but I conceive them to be all one and the ſame ſpecies, only they grow not to compleat Salmons, or full proportion, under two years and a half: and the reaſon for my opinion is, becauſe I could never find any ſpawn in any of thoſe of leſſer

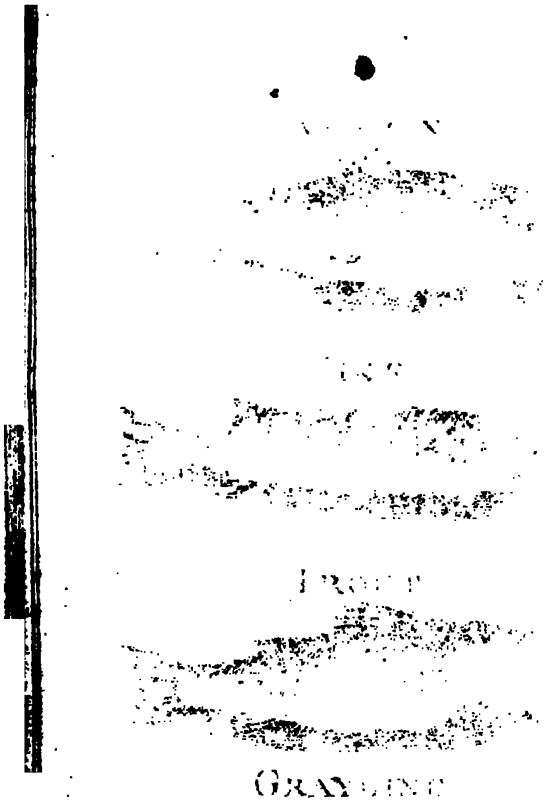
SALMON



PIKE

TROUT

GRAYLING



ſſer ſize before they came to be Salmon; hich moſt certainly they would have had of a different ſpecies.

THE Laſt-Springs, Shedders, or Gravel-Laſt-Springs, (ſo called in ſome counies) are but one ſort or ſpecies of fiſh. hey are very plentiful in the rivers Severn, Wye, and Dee, from the latter end f March to the latter end of November, nd are much like the Salmon-fry; only he Salmon-fry return to the ſea in March nd April, whereas the Shedders and Laſtprings never leave the freſh-water.

THE little Gravel-Laſt-Spring is a ſpeies of itſelf, which in the rivers Wye and evern ſpawn in the latter end of Auguſt nd September, and at that time thoſe riers abound with them: there are ſome of hem at all times of the year, but at the atter end of Auguſt I have caught ten or welve dozen of them in an afternoon. I ad the curioſity of opening ſome of them, nd found them to be full of male ſpawn ear ſhedding, but never could perceive ny female ſpawn; therefore am certain his muſt be a ſpecies of itſelf, as having pawn, but cannot account for this fiſh aving no female ſpawn which may be liſcerned.

MANY

MANY have been of opinion that they are the ſpawn of the ſick Salmon, which cannot get out of the freſh rivers to ſea; and being the offspring of a weak ſeed or generation, is the reaſon of their diminutive ſize, and incapacity of breeding again: but I take this to be an error, becauſe the Salmon ever ſpawn when in perfect health only, before their time of going to ſea, and ſpawn no more till their return to the freſh-water; for unleſs they return to ſea, thereby to be purged and cleanſed by the ſalt-water, they pine away and die in their impriſonment, either by exceſſive cold in freſh-water, or for want of purgation, or both. Now the purging of the ſalt-water may as well be a reaſon why Salmon grow ſo faſt, as the want thereof, the cauſe why they pine away and die ſo ſoon, when confined to freſh-waters; for Salmon being fiſh of prey, and great feeders, nature directs them to ſalt-water, as phyſick, to purge and cleanſe them, not only from their impurities after ſpawning, but from all their muddy and groſs humours, acquired by their exceſſive feeding all the ſummer in freſh rivers, and hardens their fat and fleſh, which makes them not only grow the faſter, but alſo become

become the more wholeſome food, ſavoury and grateful to mankind.

Of the PIKE, *or* LUCE.

THE Pike is of a long and roundiſh body, has a plain ſmooth head, is covered with ſmall ſcales of a whitiſh colour, and the body ſprinkled with yellowiſh ſpots; the young ones are more green; the upper and lower jaws are full of teeth, and three rows of teeth upon the tongue. He's the tyrant of freſh-water fiſh, and reckoned a longer liver than any other fiſh, except a carp. He is very chargeable to his owners, his chief ſubſiſtence being upon other fiſh, even thoſe of his own ſpecies. He will bite at a dog or any other creature he ſees in the water, of which many inſtances might be given: a very particular one I ſhall relate, as follows:

MY father caught a Pike in Barn-mere, (a large ſtanding water in Cheſhire) was an Ell long, and weighed thirty-five pounds, which he brought to the lord Cholmondley,

ley. His lordſhip ordered it to be turned into a canal in the garden, wherein were abundance of ſeveral ſorts of fiſh: about twelve months after his lordſhip drawed the canal, and found that this overgrown Pike had devoured all the fiſh, except one large carp, which weighed between nine and ten pounds, and that was bitten in ſeveral places. The Pike was then put into the canal again, together with abundance of fiſh for him to feed upon, all which he devoured in leſs than a year's time, and was obſerved by the gardener and other workmen there to take the ducks and other waterfowl under water; whereupon they ſhot magpies and crows, and threw them into the canal, which the pike took before their eyes. Of this they acquainted their lord, who thereupon ordered the ſlaughter-man to throw calves bellies, chickens guts, and ſuch like garbage for him to prey upon, but being ſoon after neglected, he died, as ſuppoſed, for want of food.

It is the general opinion that no other fiſh will aſſociate themſelves with this water-tyrant, for he always ſwims alone, and is the moſt bold and daring of all our freſh-water fiſh, knowing no other pleaſure, as we conjecture, than prey or reſt.

Of

Of the Spawning Time.

HE ſpawns but once a year, which is uſually about the end of February or beginning of March, at which time they go out of the river into ſome ditch or creek, and all the while the ſpawner is caſting her eggs the milter hovers over her but never touches her. The beſt of theſe fiſh are thoſe that breed in rivers, and the female much preferable to the male. Their chief ſeaſon is from May till Candlemas; his feeding is generally upon fiſh or frogs, there being a great antipathy between him and them: ſometimes he feeds upon pickrell-weed.

There are Four Ways of taking a PIKE.

THE firſt is with a ledge-bait, which is a bait fixed to a certain place. It is beſt to have your ledge's-bait living, whether it be a fiſh or a frog; and to keep them alive the longer, obſerve this method. If it be a fiſh, as a roach or dace, which I think are moſt tempting, (though a pearch lives the longeſt upon the hook) having cut off the fin

on

on the back, which may be done without hurting, make ſuch inciſion between the head and the fin as you may put the arming wire of your hook into it, taking care to hurt the fiſh as little as may be; then carrying the wire along his back, into or near his tail, between the ſkin and the body, draw it out at another incifion near the tail; then tie him about with thread, but no harder than juſt to hold him to the wire, ſo avoid hurting the fiſh. Some uſe a probe to open the paſſage, for the more eaſy entrance of the wire; but without ſo much trouble a little experience will make you perfect in this matter. When your bait is a frog, it may be either a land or a water-frog: chuſe the yelloweſt you can get, for that the Pike likes beſt, and between the months of May and Auguſt they are the moſt beautiful. To preſerve them long alive, manage them thus: put your hook in at his mouth and out at his gills; then with a fine needle and ſilk ſew the upper part of his leg, with one ſtitch only to the arming wire; or, if you tie his leg faſt above the upper joint, it will do as well. Having thus prepared your ledge's-bait either with a fiſh or a frog, faſten your hook to a line, which muſt be twelve

or

or fourteen yards at leaſt in length; then fix the line to ſome bough or other reſt next to the water, near to the hole where you gueſs the Pike to be, then wind up your line on a forked ſtick, with a notch in one end to keep your line fixed to the length you intend, that when the Pike comes he may the more eaſily run off with the remaining part of the line to his hold, and ſwallow the bait.

The Second Way of Taking a PIKE,

IS what we call taking them at ſnap. For this purpoſe your rod muſt be at leaſt twelve feet in length, very ſtrong and taper, but not too heavy, with a ſubſtantial loop at the end to put your line into, which muſt be as long, within a foot, as your rod. When you bait for the ſnap you muſt make a hole in the fiſh's ſide you intend for the bait, as near the middle as you can, with the end of your hook or probe; put in your armed wire, and draw it out of the fiſh's mouth; then ſow up his mouth. When you fiſh thus for the Pike, before you ſtrike let him run a little, and

and then ſtrike contrary to the way h takes. It is beſt to uſe a double ſpring hook in this ſort of fiſhing, being muc preferable to any other, and never fails This manner of angling is only proper t be practiced in March, for then the Pik is ſick, and bites ſhy.

The Third Way of Taking a PIKE,

IS by ſnaring, or haltering: and th chief time of the year for this is from Marc to July, and in the hotteſt part of the day when the fiſh appear, as they all do, on th top of the water. When you have ſpied Pike, fix your eye ſtedfaſtly upon hir without looking off, which will make hir the quieter, and have your ſnare with yo ready fixed, after this manner: Take a ſtra taper pole, that is ſtiff and ſtrong enough but not too heavy, off about four yard in length: faſten to the leſſer end a ſma piece of hard twiſted whip-cord, abou a yard long, more or leſs according to th depth of the water, and to the end faſten well nealed braſs wire, made into a nooſe c ſnare, like a hare-gin, or let it be all c

neale

ıealed wire, with no cord: then, having ›pened the nooſe wide enough to ſlip over ıis head without touching him, let it lown with your pole into the water, even n depth with the Pike, two or three yards ›efore him, and guide it very gently to-ıards his head, fixing your eyes full upon ıim, till you have put the ſnare over his ıead and gill-fins, but no further: then ımmediately with a ſtrong jerk upright, ›oiſt him inſtantly to land. Keeping your :ye as much as you can upon the Pike, will cauſe him to look upon you the more ınd mind the ſnare leſs. Beſure your pole ›e not brittle or rotten.

IN the ſame manner you may halter other fiſh; as carp, eels, trout and tench.

The Fourth Way of Taking a PIKE,

IS by trolling, and very pleaſant: the lines and other tackle for this purpoſe are now ſo accurately and exactly made, and ſo commonly ſold, that I need not trouble you with a deſcription of them. It is beſt angling after this manner in a clear water and eſpecially in a windy day. Some pre-

fer

ſer a ſingle before a double pike hook, and bait with a minnow as well to catch pearch as Pike by trolling. When you are compleatly fitted up with all materials, and your hook is baited, caſt your fiſh bait up and down in ſuch places as you know the Pike frequents, letting him ſink a conſiderable depth before you offer to pull him up again. When the Pike comes, if it be not ſunk too deep, you may ſee the water move, at leaſt you may feel him: then ſlack your line, and give him length enough to run to his hold; whether he will immediatly make, and there paunch and ſwallow the bait. Thus let him lie till you ſee the line move; when you may certainly conclude he has ſwallowed the bait, and is ranging about for more: then with your trole wind up the line till you think it is almoſt ſtrait, and with a nimble jerk hook him, and bring him pleaſantly to land.

THE Pike loves a ſtill, ſhady, unfrequented water, with a ſandy, chalky, or clay bottom. His beſt biting time is early in the morning, or late in the evening, in clear water and gentle gales: he takes all ſorts of baits, except flies, but the moſt principal are, large gudgeons, ſmall roache

roaches and dace, large minnows, bull-heads, bleaks (in July), young frogs, or ſalmon-ſmelts: ſome uſe fat bacon in winter months: a young trout, jack, or pearch are alſo good. Take care that all your fiſh-baits are freſh and ſweet when you uſe them.

Of the TROUT.

THE Trout is a fiſh highly valued in this and foreign nations; he feeds clear and purely, and in the ſwifteſt ſtreams; and may claim a preference to all freſh-water fiſh. The ſhape of it is rather long than broad, like the ſalmon: it has a ſhort roundiſh head, a blunt ſnout, and in many reſpects reſembles the ſalmon; his mouth is alſo filled with teeth as the ſalmon's is.

THE beſt trouts are either red or yellow, though ſome are white, and yet good, but theſe are rarely found. The female has a leſſer head, deeper body, and is uſually better meat than the male. It is obſerved

obſerved that a hog-back and a little head to any ſort of fiſh, either trout, ſalmon, or other ſorts, is a ſign that ſuch fiſh are in ſeaſon.

THERE are ſeveral ſorts of Trouts, tho' they all go under that general name, which differ in their bigneſs, ſhape, and colour; and in ſome rivers they are ſooner in ſeaſon than others; and in ſome longer before they go out of ſeaſon. There is a ſort of ſmall trout which will never come to any bigneſs, but breeds much more than thoſe of a larger ſize.

The Spawning Time.

THE Trout, a little before they ſpawn, make up the river to the ſpring-head, and to admiration will get through mill, wares, and flood-gates, and up ſuch high and ſwift currents and places as is almoſt incredible; and ſpawn in October or November, (but in ſome rivers a little ſooner or later) like the ſalmon; contrary to the natural courſe of moſt other fiſhes, which ſpawn in warmer weather.

AFTER Trouts have ſpawned, they waſte, look big-headed, are ſick, lean, become

ecome inſipid, are louſy and unwholſome, ll ſpring comes to reſtore them to their riſtine health; except ſome of the females ho are barren, and continue good all ie winter: and ſuch are to be found in ivers of our rivers; as in Arrow, in lerefordſhire: and alſo in the river Teme iat ariſes in Radnorſhire: and in Clun-ater, in Shropſhire. In this reſpect they iay be compared to the barren does, that ome in ſeaſon about the middle of No-ember, and go out the beginning of ebruary.

His Haunts.

IN February, when the weather be-omes warmer, Trouts leave their winter-uarters in the deeps, to ſcour, cleanſe, and ecreate themſelves in ſhallower waters and treams, and to prepare themſelves for their ummer delights; and as they gather trength advance ſtill higher up the river, ill they become ſettled in their ſummer ha-itations; many of them getting as high s they can towards the ſpring-head of ri-ers, as in the preceding ſection. In heir travels they ſettle for the moſt part in

in whirl-pools, and holes into which ſwift ſtreams, ſharps, and ſhallows fall: and growing ſtrong, feed in the largeſt and ſwifteſt currents, eſpecially in the ſides and deepeſt parts of them, near to their holds. If they be large fiſh they commonly lie under hollow banks, worn ſo by the ſtreams bearing upon them; under roots of trees, boughs, and buſhes; and behind great ſtones, blocks, and banks that jet forth into the water, on which ſtreams preſſing hard, cauſe an eddy or whirling back of the water; and they alſo delight themſelves in all ſuch places that are ſhaded with any buſh, or covered over with froth, bank, or other thing; conſtantly waiting and watching for the ſtream to bring ſomething down to feed upon, or for ſome ſmall fiſh which they often make their prey. Sometimes they take up their ſtation under bridges; and between two ſtreams that run from under double arches of bridges, in the returns of the ſtreams, where the water ſeems to boil and roll up and down. In deep ſtill waters, they chiefly lurk under hollow banks and roots of trees; and for want of ſuch hiding places, abſcond under ſeggs or weeds, the better to ſurpriſe their prey, eſpecially in the beginning

ginning of the year, before they become healthy; but at the latter end of the year, when declining in ſtrength, they lie in the tails of ſtreams; and when in their very prime, in mill heads or dams, and at the upper end of mill-pools, under planks and timber, and in other deep ſwift ſtreams, as locks, flood-gates, and wares. Thus by knowing their moſt frequented haunts, the angler may be, in the next place, more eaſily directed in the various ways of ſporting for them.

The beſt Months for Angling for TROUTS,

THE beſt four months of angling for Trouts are, March, April, May, and June. You may begin in February if the weather be open and mild; but the chiefeſt months are thoſe four firſt mentioned. In March and April it is beſt angling for Trouts with a worm in the forenoon, and with a fly or minnow all the reſt of the day: but in the month of May, you muſt uſe the minnow or codbait in the forenoon, till the flies come down. In March, if the weather be

hot, ſtill, and bright, and the water clear, angle for them in the ſwifteſt ſtreams, and moſt ſtrong part of the river with minnow or worm only; and in the deeps, morning and evenings, very early and very late; that is, if the weather proves very clear and bright. In my opinion the Trout is beſt in Seaſon about the beginning of May; before he has filled and gorged himſelf with the May-fly, for that fly makes the belly thin, and the fleſh flabby.

Of the GRAYLING, *his Seaſon and Shape.*

SOME are of opinion that the Umber and Grayling differ only as the herring and pilchard do: but I think they are both the ſame fiſh, only different counties give them ſeparate names. He feeds like a trout, but he is of another ſhape; for he is hog-back'd, and his fins ſtanding upon his back like thoſe of a pearch, his mouth and belly touch the ground together, which makes me believe he feeds moſt at bottom.

As

As to his ſize he never exceeds twenty four inches in length; is good and palatable all the year, but the principal Seaſon is from September till Chriſtmas; at which time he is black about his head and gills, and down the back; his belly is of a dark grey dappled colour, with beautiful black ſpots on his ſides; is of a delicate ſhape; his fleſh white and firm; his teeth grow round his upper jaw, as fine as any file, and his mouth is ſo tender on each ſide, that he often breaks the hold when taken; therefore it is beſt angling for him with a fine hook.

His Spawning Time.

HE ſpawns about the latter end of March and beginning of April, at which time he lies in ſharp ſtreams and brows, and is very apt to riſe at the artificial fly; but you ſeldom take a ſpawner: the milter will, at that time, take a worm freely.

His Haunts.

HIS Haunts are the ſame as thoſe of the trout, and he is uſually taken with the

ſame baits, and after the ſame manner. He will take a fly, worm, or maggot, but the laſt moſt freely, but is very gameſome at the fly or worm; being much ſimpler, and therefore bolder than a trout: He will riſe two or three times at a fly, if you miſs him. He lurks cloſe all the winter, but about the latter end of April, ſwims very nimbly in the middle of the ſtream, is then extremely active and briſk, but dead hearted and cowardly after he is hooked.

How to take the GRAYLING.

HE feeds upon codbait and ſtonebait, and all other little inſects that gather huſks to preſerve them from the coldneſs of the water, which are compoſed of gravel and ſand: for the Grayling plows and routs up the gravel to ſeek his food, as natural as the hogs plow for theirs. I have often ſeen half a dozen Graylings at a time routing the gravel up, and catching at every thing that was like food. When you fiſh for him within water let your bait or ſhot drag upon the ground, for he will rather take it from the bottom than aſcend; there-

therefore, when you angle particularly for him, uſe a cork-float rather than a running line. Indeed I cannot but think a trout much inferior to the Grayling for angling or eating.

I AM informed that the great river Humber, which runs through part of Yorkſhire, produces more of this ſort of fiſh than any other river in England; and therefore, what we in moſt other parts of the kingdom call Grayling, they there (by a reſemblance of the name with that of the river) call the Golden-umber: which epithet they give him becauſe he feeds on thoſe ſtony and gravelly inſects that gather up the duſt, which is very fine, which duſt, when mixed with the ſlime in the fiſh's belly, ſhines like gold.

Of the PEARCH, *his Spawning Time, and Shape.*

THE Pearch is a very good and bold biting fiſh; is one of the fiſhes of prey, carrying his teeth in his mouth, which is very large: he is very ravenous and a

great devourer of his brethren; has a hog-back, and armed with ſharp prickles: his ſkin is covered over with thick, dry, hard, ſcales, having two fins at his back. The Sea-pearch has but one fin on his back, and is eſteemed a much better fiſh. He ſpawns in May. As to his ſhape, he's deep bodied, about fourteen inches in length, oftener leſs, though there have been ſeen of them two feet long,

With what Baits, and how to take the PEARCH.

THERE are ſeveral baits which will take him, but he bites as freely at the three following as at any or all other whatever; that is, the worm, minnow, or little frog: and of all worms I take the dunghill-worm, called the red-worm, to be the beſt, when well ſcoured in moſs or fennel.

IF you rove for a Pearch with a minnow, let it be alive, and ſtick your hook in its back fin, or upper lip, and let him ſwim up and down in midwater, or a little lower, with a cork, which ought not to be very ſmall, and you muſt be ſure to lead your line

line within nine inches or a foot of the hook, for that will keep the bait under water, elſe he will come to the top when tired. This is as good a bait for the trout as any.

WHEN you fiſh with a frog, you muſt put the hook through the ſkin of his back, for then he will ſwim without interruption.

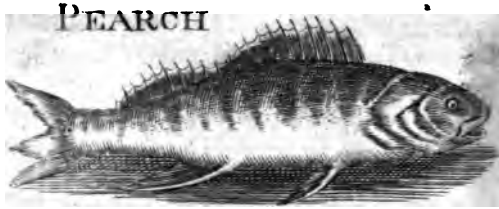
WHEN either trout or Pearch bite, be-ſure you give him line enough, that he may gorge the bait; or elſe the hook, be-ing covered with the bait, will ſlip out of his mouth. This way of fiſhing for Pearch is beſt in the months of May and June, for then they are roving about for the ſpawn of roach and dace.

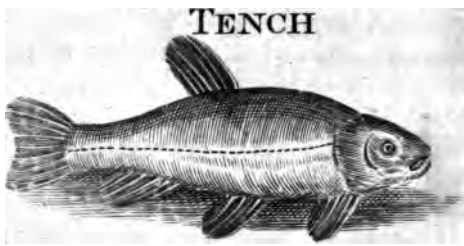
THE beſt way of gathering theſe fiſh to-gether is to take half a dozen clay-balls, about the ſize of a penny loaf, of the ſtiff-eſt faſteſt clay that can be had, and make them round and full of holes; but you ſhould firſt have ready a large quantity of lob-worms; then put one end of every worm into each hole, and cloſe the clay faſt upon them. Thus having filled and ſtuffed all the balls, take them to the pool, pond or river, where you intend to angle; throw two or three balls in a place, at about a yard's diſtance from each other: theſe worms in the balls being alive, twiſt and

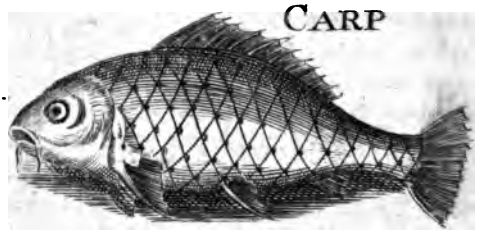
in pond or river, bait the place firſt with the ſame balls directed for the pearch or carp; and be ſure, if you have maggots, throw in a few at the taking of every fiſh, for that will keep them together. The ſize of your hook muſt be from number ſix to number three, whipped on a ſtrong ſea-graſs or ſilk-worm gut: two or three ſhots at the line for pond-fiſhing will be enough, with a ſwan or gooſe-quill float. The ſame fiſhing-tackle will ſerve for carp, pearch, and Tench.

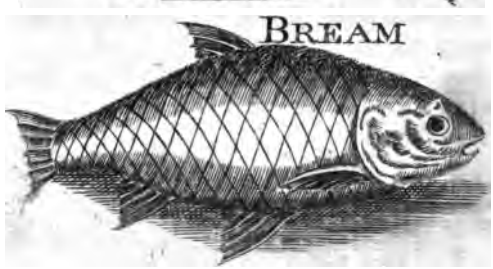
His ſtriking time, or hours of motion, are about eight, twelve, and four, night or day, in the three hot months. If you can wade the pit or pond where carp and Tench are, you may ſtir the mud with your feet or with any inſtrument till you make the water very muddy; which will throw every fiſh up to the top of the water, and make them put their noſes out of the water for air, (this I have experienced in Cheſhire) and then you may take out what ſize you pleaſe; but this muſt be done in very hot weather. The muddy water makes them very ſick for the preſent, but in half an hour's time, they will recover, and retire to the bottom again.

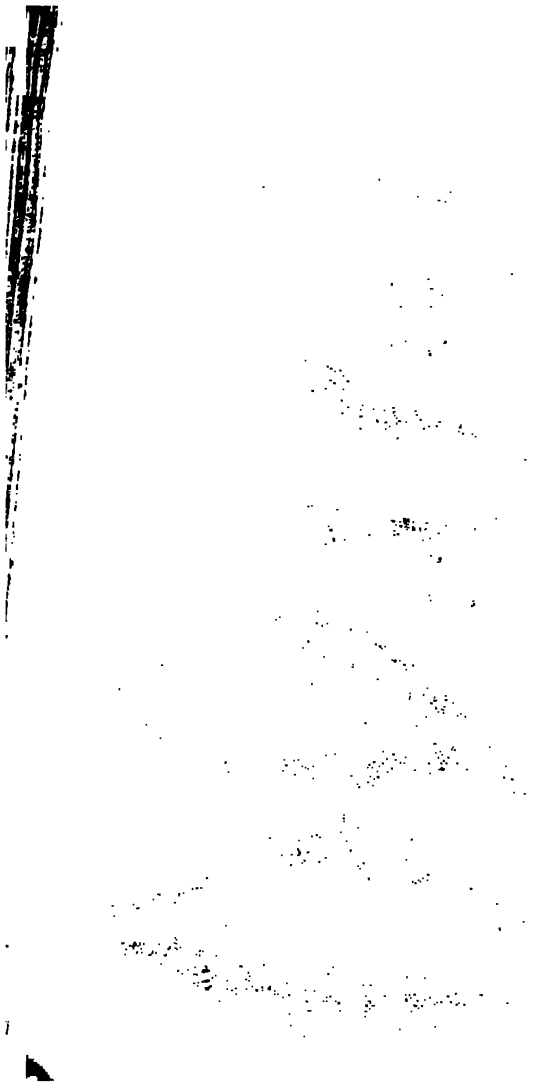
Of


PEARCH


TENCH


CARP


BREAM



Of the CARP, *his Shape and Colour.*

THE Carp is a very ſtately and ſubtle fiſh; ſtiled the freſh-water fox. He is originally of foreign growth: his back riſes from his head ſomewhat ſharp and edged, is covered with very large, ſtrong, broad ſcales: is of a yellowiſh colour, eſpecially when arrived to an age: the younger ſort are more inclined to a duſky colour: his head is ſhort, in proportion to his body: has no teeth: and ſwims with broad fins: his tail is broad and forked, of a colour between red and black, as is alſo the laſt fin: neither hath he any tongue, but inſtead thereof nature hath given him a fleſhy palate to reliſh his food.

HE is obſerved to breed ſeveral months in the year, contrary to the nature of moſt other fiſh. To ſtrengthen this conjecture, you ſhall ſeldom take a male Carp without a milt, or a female without much ſpawn; eſpecially all the ſummer ſeaſon. She breeds more naturally in ponds than in running water, (if ſhe breeds there at all), but the river Carp for eating is preferred to all

others. He is very difficult to take, and there is a neceſſity of exerciſing the virtue of patience when you ſport for him: for I have known the beſt of anglers uſe their utmoſt art and diligence for many hours to take him. In ſome ponds they are as difficult to take as in a river; that is, where they have a ſtore of feed and a clear water. He is to be fiſhed for early and late; you cannot go to an extreme in either.

Of the Spawning Time.

SHE begins to ſpawn in May, and when a female Carp goes to caſt her ſpawn, three or four milters follow her, and, ſhe diſſembling a coyneſs, force her through weeds and flags, where ſhe drops her ſpawn, which ſticks faſt to the weeds: then the male performs his office, and all the ſpawn ſo milted upon, in a ſhort time become living fiſh. They begin to ſpawn at four years old. The Carp and tench are the only two fiſh that ought to be put in a pond together, and thrive beſt in clay or marle bottoms.

His

His Haunts.

THERE is ſcarce any ſort of fiſh hat loves a cold hungry water, but ſuch ater as comes off rich fat ſoils, and is ery ſoft: in this, all ſorts of pool-fiſh elight and thrive. It is imprudent to eep any other fiſh with Carp and tench, ſpecially roach and dace, for they deſtroy he carp's food. There are pike, pearch, oach, dace, bream, and flate, the moſt t to keep company together.

Of his Biting Time and Baits.

HE bites at a well ſcoured red-worm, aggot, waſp-grub, or the green-worm rom trees, boughs, or buſhes; which laſt a very natural bait. There are many orts of paſtes that are mentioned for tak-ng of Carp and other fiſh, but I look up-n them to be very ordinary; the four ſorts f baits abovementioned being the beſt I ave experienced for the taking of Carp, ench, or pearch, by reaſon you can raiſe uantities of them to bait your holes; hich will certainly draw them together,

if

you do it a day or two before you begin to angle; but in caſe the fiſh are ſhy, you muſt continue to bait the holes for a fortnight or three weeks together, once a day; then you may depend on ſport. But if the pool or pond be well ſtored with theſe ſort of fiſh, you need only bait where you purpoſe to ſport an hour or two before hand. Your worms muſt be of the red and white ſort, not too large, and well ſcoured. There are many other baits; but theſe, with diligence and patience, will take a Carp ſooner than any other I ever tried.

HE is generally caught at the bottom, where the line and lead is not diſcovered as it is in mid-water. Baiting the holes before you fiſh for him, and he taſting your baits without diſturbance or treachery, makes him feed bold, and not apprehenſive of being betrayed. Uſe a long rod and quill float, keeping out of ſight as much as you can whilſt angling: when you ſtrike him, give him play enough, otherwiſe he will break your tack, for he is not only a ſtrong fiſh but a great ſtruggler; and, if he is a large fiſh, as ſoon as he takes the bait will run immediately to the other ſide of the river or pond.

HE

HE is a leather-mouth'd fiſh: his age is variouſly determined, but moſt think that he commonly arrives to the age of forty or fifty years. He is beſt in ſeaſon in March and April.

****

Obſervations on the Breeding of CARP.

UNLESS gentlemen take more care than they have done of late years, it will be impoſſible to have large Carp; becauſe they overſtock the pool with them, which keeps the fiſh lean, and cauſes them to breed in abundance, and when they once begin to breed, they will never grow to any ſize afterwards: neither will the ſpawn of little Carp ever grow to be large; for when they take to breed at two or three years old, the fiſh of ſuch ſpawn will never grow to be large, change them into ever ſo many waters; for it is as much impoſſible to have large fiſh from the ſpawn of ſmall one's, as it is to expect a large breed of fowls from a Guiney-cock and hen; for when the Carp breed ſo young, they may properly be called of the dwarf kind. Now if gentlemen

...g pans or pools, but be sure to
the same first of all other fish. Thu
or three years time you will have th
store Carp. Then take the males
males of these fish, and put the
your pans or pools, and in a few yea
will become large eating fish.

By thus managing and shifting
fish, you will have a constant stoc
then you ought once in three years
amine if the water agrees with them

Be sure that your fish for breed
each four or five pounds weight a
and as much bigger as possible;
fry of a large fish will grow to as l
size in four or five years time, as the
small size will in ten years: contrary
judgment of most gentlemen, who
that the water and feed add to the

How to Preſerve and Feed Fiſh in Pools.

WHEN you intend to ſtock a pool with Carp or tench, make a cloſe ethering hedge acroſs the head of it, about a yard diſtant off the dam, and about three feet above the water, which is the beſt refuge for them I know of, and the only method to preſerve pool-fiſh; becauſe, if any one attempts to rob the pool, muddies the water, or diſturbs it with nets, moſt of the fiſh, if not all, immediately fly between the hedge and the dam to preſerve themſelves. And in pools where there are ſuch ſhelters and ſhades, the fiſh delight to ſwim backwards and forwards, through and round the ſame, rubbing and ſporting themſelves therewith. This hedge ought to be made chiefly of orls, and not too cloſe, the boughs long, and ſtraggling towards the dam; by which means you may feed and fatten them as you pleaſe.

THE beſt baits for drawing them together at firſt, are maggots or young waſps; the next are bullocks brains and lob-worms chopped together, and thrown into the pool in large quantities, about two hours before

before ſun-ſet, ſummer and winter. By thus uſing theſe ground-baits, once a day for a fortnight together, the fiſh will come as conſtantly and naturally to the place as cattle to their fodder: and to ſatisfy your curioſity, and convince you therein, after you have baited the pool for ſometime as directed, take about the quantity of a two-penny wheaten loaf, cut it into ſlices, and wet it, then throw it into the pool where you had baited, and the carp will feed upon it: after you have uſed the wet bread three or four mornings, then throw ſome dry bread in, which will lie on the top of the water, and, if you watch out of ſight of the fiſh, you will preſently ſee them ſwim to it, and ſuck it in. I look upon wheaten bread to be the beſt food for them, though oaten or barley bread is very good. If there be tench or pearch in the ſame pond, they will feed upon the four former baits, and not touch the bread.

INDEED there is no pool-fiſh ſo ſhy and nice as a Carp, as I have before obſerved; for when the water is diſturbed they will fly to the ſafeſt ſhelter they can: which I one day obſerved, when aſſiſting a gentleman to fiſh his pool; for another perſon diſturbed the water by throwing the caſting-

ing-net, but caught never a Carp: whereupon two or three of us ſtripped and went into the pool, which was provided with ſuch a ſort of a hedge in it as is before deſcribed, whither the carp had fled for ſafety; then fiſhing with our hands on both ſides the hedge, that is, one on either ſide, we caught what quantity of Carp was wanting.

CARP are a hardy fiſh, and will live longer out of water than moſt others. I ſhall conclude with a particular obſervation on this head, as given by a late ingenious author: "Carps, ſays he, will live out "of water, in an open place, only with "much air, as is manifeſt by the method "of fattening them in Holland, and "which has been practiced here in Eng-"land: viz. they hand them up in a cel-"lar, or ſome cool place, on wet moſs, in "a ſmall net, with their heads out, and a "packthread through the upper fin to "keep them upright, and thus feed them "with white bread and milk for many "days. This, adds our author, was told "me by a man very curious, and of "great honour and eminency, whoſe "word, if I might name him, nobody "would queſtion." Indeed I myſelf have

ſeen

ſeen this experienced; and as it is an inſtance of the reſpiration of fiſhes, very ſingular, and ſomewhat out of the way, I have, for the reader's diverſion, taken notice of it.

Of the BREAM.

THE Bream is a broad fiſh, with a ſmall head, and ſharp ſnout; the top of the head ſomewhat broad and ſmooth; the back bending and edged, riſing ſenſibly from the head like a ſwine: the colour of his back is betwixt blue and black, his ſides and belly white, eſpecially in thoſe that are young and lean, but the ſides of thoſe that are full grown ſhine of a gold colour, and their belly is red: the mouth, in proportion to his ſize, is very ſmall, and without teeth: the palate is ſoft and fleſhy, like that of a carp: and his fleſh ſoft and clammy. This fiſh greatly reſembles a carp, being very broad, with a forked tail, and his ſcales ſet in excellent order: he has large eyes; but a ſmall ſucking

ucking mouth. The milter is obſerved to have two large milts, and the ſpawner two large bags of ſpawn. The beſt parts of this fiſh for eating, are his belly and his head.

IT is ſaid that Breams and roaches will mix their eggs and milt together, by which means there is, in many places, a baſtard race of breams, which never grow to be large, are very numerous, but not good for eating.

The Spawning Time.

BREAMS ſpawn the latter end of June and beginning of July, and are beſt in ſeaſon a little before they ſpawn; though ſome think them beſt in September, having then had their ſummer's feed.

Their Haunts.

THEY ſwim in ſhoals, or great companies, delighting moſt in gentle ſoft ſtreams; ſandy or clay bottoms; in the deepeſt, broadeſt, and middle parts of ponds; and in

in the deepeſt, broadeſt, and moſt quiet places in rivers near unto weeds.

THE Bream and roach are fiſh that live and delight as well in rivers that are dead and heavy waters, as in pools; eſpecially in a river called Avon, in Warwickſhire and Worceſterſhire, where are plenty of them.

How, and with what Baits to take the BREAM.

THERE are many ſorts of baits wherewith to take him, viz. red-worms well ſcoured; but they like gentils and and the young waſp-brood beſt, which laſt ſhould be boiled in a pot or kettle, or dried on a tile-ſtone before the fire, which makes them not unlike gentils; or elſe a worm, like a maggot, which is found at dock roots, flags, ſedges, or ruſhes, in watry places; he will alſo bite at a graſs-hopper in June or July; or at ſeveral flies under water, found on flags that grow near the water-ſide.

THERE are ſeveral other good ſorts of baits, but this following, communicated to me by an excellent angler, I prefer to them

them all, either for carp or Bream, that is, Take the largeſt red-worms you can get without a knot, which are to be found in great numbers, in an evening, in garden walks or chalky commons, after a ſhore of rain. Keep a quantity of them by you in an earthen pot, in clean moſs, well waſhed, picked, and ſqueez'd as dry as poſſible: renew the moſs every fourth day for three weeks or a month longer, then your bait will be in perfection.

HAVING thus prepared your baits, have your fiſhing tackle ready after this manner: take three long angling-rods; three or four ſilk, or ſilk and hair lines, and as many large ſwan or gooſe-quill floats: then faſten leaden plummets to the lower end of your line, about a foot or ten inches diſtance from the hook, but beſure the lead is heavy enough to ſink the float, and not the float bear up the lead; the lower part of your line next the hook may be ſmaller than the reſt, if you dare venture, for fear of taking the pike or pearch, who will certainly viſit your hooks till they are caught, as I ſhall ſhew hereafter, before either carp or Bream will come near to bite: when the worm is well baited, it will crawl and work itſelf as far as the lead will permit, which

which much inticeth the fiſh to bite without ſuſpicion.

YOUR baits being thus ready, and your tackling fitted, repair to the rivers, where, at three or four a clock in a hot ſummer's afternoon, you may ſee them ſwim in ſhoals, and, which is eaſily diſcerned, watch their going out and coming back to their holes, for they return about thoſe hours, moſt of them ſeeking food at the bottom; yet one or two moſt commonly lie on the top, rolling and tumbling about, whilſt the reſt are at the bottom under them: thus will you will ever obſerve one or more keeping centry. Then obſerve where they play moſt and keep longeſt, which is commonly in the deepeſt and broadeſt part of the river. Then chuſe where is a clear bottom and convenient landing-place; take one of your angles, and ſound the bottom, and let it be eight or ten feet, and about two yards from the bank is beſt. Conſider next if the water will riſe or fall by next morning, by reaſon of any water-mills near, and according to diſcretion take the depth of the place where you intend to caſt your ground-baits, and fiſh to half an inch, that the lead lying on or near the ground-baits, the

the top of the float may only appear upright, half an inch above the water.

THUS having fixed your place, and found the depth thereof, return home, and prepare your ground-baits as follows: take a peck of ſweet ground barley malt, boil it in a kettle, then ſtrain it through a linnen bag into a tub: and when the bag and malt are almoſt cold, take them down to the water ſide, about eight or nine o'clock in the evening, and not before: throw in about one half of the ground-malt, ſqueezed hard between your hands, it will ſink preſently to the bottom: take care that it lodge in the very place you intend to angle. If the current run hard, or move a little, throw the malt in handfulls the higher up the ſtream: beſure you ſqueeze the malt ſo hard, that the water will ſcarcely part it by the ſinking.

HAVING thus baited and prepared your fiſhing tackle, leave the bag with the ground-baits and other materials near the ſporting place all night; and about three or four o'clock in the morning viſit the water-ſide, but not too near, for theſe fiſh are very watchful: take one of your three rods gently up into your hands, bait your hook, then caſt it over the ground-bait,

ſoftly and ſecretly draw it to you, till the lead reſts about the middle of the ground-bait; caſt in your ſecond line about a yard above, and the third (both baited) a yard below the firſt. Fix the rods in the ground, but be ſure go ſo far from the water-ſide that you perceive nothing but the floats, which you muſt watch very diligently; for when the fiſh bite, you will ſee the float ſink ſuddenly into the water; yet run not too haſtily to the rod, till you obſerve the line drawn clear away: then creep gently to the water-ſide, and give as much line as poſſibly you can; for if it be a carp or Bream, they will go to the other ſide of the water: then ſtrike gently, and hold your rod ſloping for a little while, for if you both pull, you are ſure to loſe the game; either line, hook, or hold, will certainly break. After you have overcome them, they will make fine ſport, but are very ſhy to be landed. The carp is more ſtrong and mettleſome than the Bream.

IF pike or pearch breed in the ſame river, they will bite firſt, and muſt be firſt taken: for the moſt part they are very large, and will repair to your ground bait; not that they will eat it, but they will feed and ſport themſelves amongſt the young fry

fry that gather about, and hover above the bait.

THE way of diſcerning and taking the pike, if you miſtruſt the Bream-hook, is thus: take a ſmall bleak, roach, or gudgeon,, bait with it, and ſet it alive among your rods, two feet deep from the cork, with a little red-worm on the point of the hook; then take a handful or two of maggots, or ſome of the ground-bait, and ſprinkle it gently amongſt your rods: if the pike be there, the little fiſh will ſkip out of the water, whereby your living bait will certainly be taken.

THUS continue your ſport from four in the morning till eight: and if it be gloomy and windy they will bite all day; but that is too long to ſtand in one place, and may ſpoil an evening's diverſion, which ſhould be thus proſecuted; about four in the afternoon repair to the baited place, throw in one half of the remainder of the ground-bait, ſtanding out of ſight of the water, whilſt the fiſh gather together; and after ſome ſhort time of abſence, bait your rods again, and put them in, as directed in the morning, and you will be ſure of excellent ſport till eight in the evening: then caſt in the reſt of your ground-

ground-bait, and, at four next morning, viſit them again for four hours, which will be the beſt ſport of all.

THEY are in their prime from St. James's till Bartholemew's day; being always fatteſt after their ſummer's feed.

Obſerve laſtly, that after three or four days fiſhing, your game will grow very ſhy and timerous, and you will ſcarcely have a bite at a baiting; then deſiſt for two or three days: and, in the place where you laſt baited, and intend to renew your baits, take a turf of ſhort graſs, about the bigneſs of a round trencher, and with a needle and green thread, faſten, one by one, as many little red worms as will almoſt cover the turf; then make a hole in the middle of a broad round trencher, and place the turf thereon; put a cord through it, and tie it to a pole. Let it, thus managed, ſink down to the bottom of the water, for the fiſh to feed upon without diſturbance for three or four days; and after that time, when you have drawn it away, you'll find ſport almoſt beyond expectation.

Of

Of the FLOUNDER.

THE Flounder is originally a ſea-fiſh, without ſcales, which wanders very far into freſh rivers, and there dwells and loſes himſelf, growing twice his length, and about as broad again, as when he quitted the ſea. He is a very wholeſome fiſh, and nutritive. The beſt are diſtinguiſhed by red Spots. This fiſh affords much ſport to the Angler.

His Haunts.

HE commonly frequents gravelly ſandy bottoms; deep gentle ſtreams, near the banks; or at the end of a ſtream, in a deep ſtill place; or in a gentle ſtream that is ſomewhat brackiſh; and ſometimes in the deepeſt ſtilleſt part of the river, near the bank; but not ſo frequent as in pretty ſwift or rather gentle ſtreams.

His Biting Time and Baits.

THEY will bite at any ſmall worm found in marſhy ground and meadows, which ſhould be well ſcoured. He is a crafty though greedy biter, and will nibble and ſuck at a bait ſometime before he takes it; and if he perceives the hook will fly from it: therefore, let your bait be always in motion, which will make him more eager. They will bite all day, from ſun-riſe to ſun-ſet.

Obſervations on the SEVERN FLOUNDER.

IN March and April there are large quantities caught in the Severn. Their haunts, at that time of the year, are chiefly on ſand-banks, where the water makes a return, which, in fact, is an eddy: there they lie in large ſhoals: but, as the ſummer advances, they move higher up the ſtream. They will travel far up the river, for great numbers have been caught near Bewdly, Bridgnorth, and Shrewſbury.

But

But large Freſhes in the river bring them down again.

IN March and April I generally catch the largeſt and the beſt Flounders, ſome weighing from half a pound to a pound and a quarter, and have caught twelve pounds in one eddy.

THE beſt bait for them is a well ſcoured red-worm. Your hook muſt not be large, for their mouth is very ſmall. Your line ſhould be twenty or twenty-five feet long, made of the beſt hemp-twine, ſtrong and fine; except at the bottom of the line you muſt have about a yard and a half of hair line, well twiſted; nine hairs in each link. I always fiſh with three hooks to a line, and three middling bullets, one at the top of each link the hooks are hung too: let the bullets be hollow, that the line may play, and you will eaſily ſee a bite of the ſmalleſt fiſh, for you frequently catch other fiſh as well as flounders, ſuch as trout, ſamlets, ſalmon-ſpawn, gudgeons, &c.

THERE is a ſmall brook called Hawford, which empties itſelf into Severn three miles above Worceſter, in which large quantities are caught. It is a water they are fond of, being very brackiſh, owing to the brine which overflows the pits at Droitwich, and

and makes them firmer and better flavoured than thoſe caught in the Severn.

THERE are three ſorts of Flounders caught here: one with a back ſpotted with reddiſh ſpots; another brown; and one black on both Sides, but I believe they are nearly equal in goodneſs.

I FISH generally with twelve of thoſe lines above deſcribed, laying them at proper diſtances one from the other, and have been found in conſtant employ for ſeveral hours together, for they bite in general pretty free, and make the Angler excellent diverſion.

Of the BARBEL.

THE Barbel is ſo called from his barb or whattles at his mouth. He is a leather-mouth'd Fiſh; large, of a fine caſt, and a handſome ſhape; with ſmall ſcales, placed after a moſt exact and curious manner; but is not reckoned the beſt fiſh for eating, either for wholeſomeneſs or taſte: the male, however, is reputed much better than the female.

Of

Of the Spawning Time.

THEY begin to ſpawn in April, and then are at the worſt, but quickly become in ſeaſon. They flock together like ſheep. The milter and ſpawner mutually labour to hide the eggs in holes, which they dig in the gravel, covering them with ſand, much like ſalmon.

His Haunts.

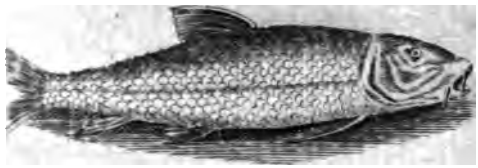
HE is able to live in the ſwifteſt waters, and in ſummer frequents the ſhalloweſt and ſharpeſt ſtreams, delighting to lurk under weeds, and feed on gravel againſt a riſing ground, rutting and digging in the ſands with his noſe, like a hog; and there neſting himſelf. Yet ſometimes he retires to deep and ſwift waters, bridges, flood-gates, and wares, where he will neſt himſelf amongſt piles, or in hollow places, taking ſuch hold of moſs or weeds, that be the current ever ſo ſtrong, it cannot force him from the place he contends for. This is his conſtant practice, when he and moſt other living creatures ſport themſelves in

the ſun: but, at the approach of winter, he forſakes the ſwift ſtreams and ſhallow-waters, and, by degrees, retires to thoſe parts of the river that are quiet and deep, in which places, about April, they ſpawn, and are then at the worſt, but ſoon come into ſeaſon again.

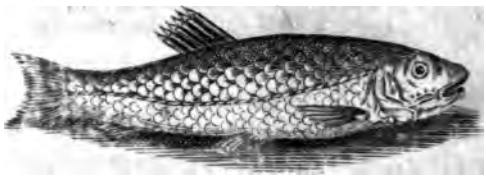
Of his Biting Time and Baits.

THE Barbel and chub are reckoned the worſt or coarſeſt of freſh-water fiſh; but the Barbel affords the angler fine ſport, being ſo luſty as frequently to endanger breaking the line, by running his head violently towards any covert, hole, or bank, then ſtriking at the line with his tail to break it. He is alſo ſo cunning, as to nibble and ſuck off your bait, cloſe to the hook, yet will avoid letting it come into his mouth. He is, likewiſe, very curious in his baits, for they muſt be clean and ſweet, the worms well ſcoured, and not kept in ſour or muſty moſs; for he is a nice feeder. At a well ſcoured lob-worm he will bite as freely as at any other bait whatever, eſpecially, if a night or two before you fiſh for him, you bait the place where

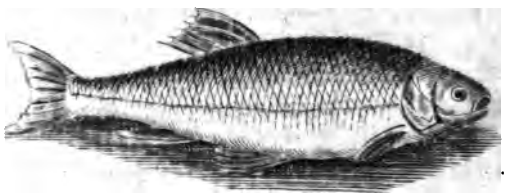
BARBEL



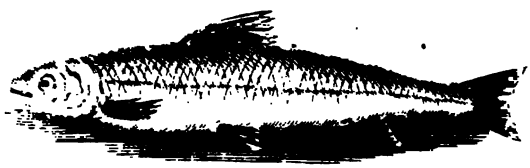
CHUB

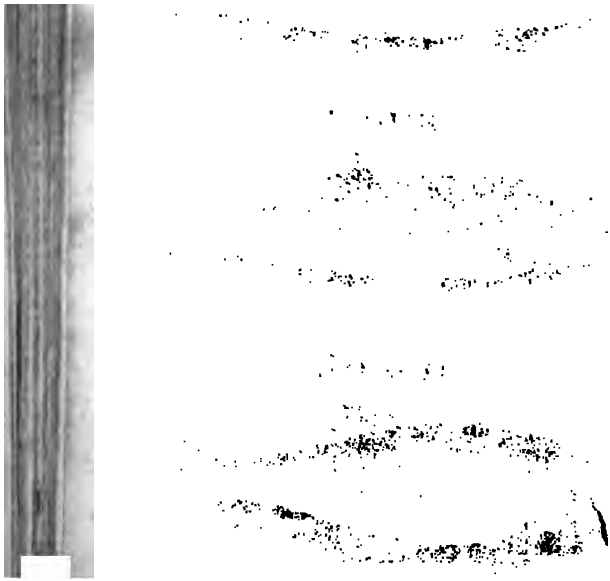


ROACH



DACE





where you intend to angle with large worms cut in pieces. Neither can you over-bait the place, nor angle too early or too late for him. Maggots, well ſcoured, are the beſt bait for him. Laſtly, when you fiſh for the Barbel, uſe a long rod, of good ſtrength, for you will find him difficult to deal with; yet when once ſtruck he ſeldom or never breaks his hold.

HE bites early, from ſun-riſe till ten o'clock in the morning, and from four in the evening till ſun-ſet, ſometimes later. Their principal biting months are, from the beginning of May till the latter end of Auguſt.

Of the CHUB, CHEVIN, *or* BOTLING; *their Spawning Time, Seaſon and Shape.*

THE Chub much reſembles the carp, but only of ſomewhat a longer ſhape: his ſcales are very broad; his head ſhort, and his teeth are in his throat. He will feed upon little fiſh or frogs.

ABOUT a fortnight before they ſpawn, if the weather be hot, they gather together in ſhoals, and appear on the top of the water; and likewiſe for a week or nine days after, if the weather be hot and bright. They ſpawn in the month of May, but I think they are not in ſeaſon till the beginning of Auguſt, and ſo continue till the month of April, being in the greateſt perfection in the winter months. You may ſlit and ſalt them, which makes them, in this part of the world, preferable to any ſalted fiſh whatever, as not having the quantity of hairy bones in them at that time, which they have in May, June, and July.

Their Haunts.

THE Chub likes ſandy or clay bottoms, large rivers, and ſhady ſtreams: but their chief abode is in the angles, or deep holes where the water runs not very quick. They thrive much in ponds into which any rivulet runs.

His

His Biting Time and Baits.

HIS biting time is from ſun-riſing till ten in the morning, and from four in the afternoon till ſun-ſet. He is caught, in the hot months, at bottom, with cow's brains, lob-worms, graſs-hoppers, and cod-baits: and at the top, with the cannon, or down-hill-fly, the graſs-hopper, caterpiller, may-fly, or ant-fly; theſe are all uſed in the manner of bobbing or dipping. You muſt be ſure to place yourſelf out of ſight behind ſome buſh or tree, for the Chub will fly to the bottom of the water at the very ſhadow of your rod, being the moſt fearful of all fiſh, and will alſo make inſtantly to the bottom at the ſhadow of a bird flying over the water, but will preſently ariſe, and lie floating on the top again; at which time move your rod ſlowly to the Chub you fiſh for: let your bait fall ſoftly on the water three or four inches before him, and he will infallibly take it, for he is a leather-mouth'd fiſh, having his teeth, as ſaid before, in his throat, out of which a hook ſcarce ever looſeth its hold, and therefore give him play enough before

before you offer to take him out of the water.

THERE are many baits to take a Chub; as, a black ſnail with its belly ſlit, to ſhew the white; ſometimes a worm; or any kind of fly, as the ant-fly, fleſh fly, dor, or beetle; or a bob, which is a ſhort white worm, like to, but bigger than a gentil, or a cod, or caſe-worm. He will take any of theſe very well; and never refuſes a graſs-hopper at the top of a ſwift ſtream, or a young waſp-grub at the bottom. Theſe grubs are found in the holes of banks, and diſcovered by the old ones going in and out; and are often found by the mowers, when cutting of graſs: they muſt be boiled or baked before uſed. The Chub will likewiſe bite at red cherries, provided you bait the hole with them the night before you fiſh. You muſt be ſure to make uſe of the ſame ſized hook, and alſo the ſame ſort of rod and line, as for a carp.

THE ſpawn of a Chub is excellent for eating. His head is the beſt part of him; and he cannot be dreſſed too ſoon after he is taken.

Of

Of the ROACH *and* DACE.

THE Roach is ſo called from his red fins: he is a fiſh not much admired for his nice taſte, but the ſpawn is reckoned the beſt part of him. He is a leather-mouth'd fiſh, having a ſort of ſaw-like teeth in his throat. As the carp is ſtiled the water-fox for his cunning, ſo the Roach is called the water-ſheep for his ſimplicity.

IT is obſervable that the Roach and Dace recover ſtrength, and are in ſeaſon, about a fortnight after ſpawning; the barbel and chub in a month; the trout in four months; and the ſalmon in the ſame time; provided he returns to the ſea, and comes back again into the freſh-waters.

RIVER Roaches are ever preferred to thoſe in ponds: but the latter are uſually of a larger breed. There are a ſort of ſmall baſtard Roaches with a very forked tail, bred in ſome ponds, differing from the true Roach, as the pilchard does from the herring. The Roach make fine diverſion, eſpecially thoſe of a larger ſize. They are

a very healthful fiſh, whence comes the proverb, "As ſound as a Roach."

Their Spawning Time.

THE Dace or Dare ſpawn about the tenth of March, and the Roach about the beginning of May. Theſe fiſh are beſt in ſeaſon from Michaelmas till Candlemas, and are very ordinary eating all the ſummer.

Their Haunts.

THE Roach and Dace love a gravelly ſandy ground beſt; and lie in the cleareſt, deepeſt, and ſtilleſt waters, that are moſt ſhaded; and alſo among water-docks, and under water-lilly leaves, eſpecially in very hot ſun-ſhine weather.

Their Biting Time and Baits.

THE Roach and Dace are to be fiſhed for, in winter, with gentils or maggots; but

but, in April, with worms, and cadis, or flies, under water, for he ſeldom takes them on the top; though the Dace, in many of the hot months, will riſe above water.

ROACHES may alſo be caught thus: take an ant-fly, ſink him with a little lead to the bottom, near the piles of a bridge, or poſts of a ware, or any deep place where they may lie quietly; pull your fly up very leiſurely, and you'll have a Roach generally follow your bait to the very top of the water, gazing and running at it with the utmoſt eagerneſs. Thus are great ſtore of Roach caught.

You may take both the Roach, Dace, or Dare, with the gentils, or young waſp-grub; but, when you fiſh wth them, you muſt be ſure to have a large hook, a quick eye, and a nimble hand, or the bait will be loſt. They will bite at almoſt any fly, but chiefly the ant-fly.

IN the next place, I ſhall inform you of a winter-bait for the Roach, Dace, or chub. If, about the beginning of November, or ſooner, you follow the plow when at work upon heath or ſandy ground, or turning up the green-ſward, or freſh land, you will find a white worm with a red head about

mouth'd; of a fine ſhape; and ſilver colour: both his body and tail are beautifully adorned with black ſpots.

His Haunts and Spawning Time.

THE Gudgeon is a river-fiſh, yet ſometimes found in ponds that are fed by rills or ſprings. He delights moſt in gravelly or ſandy ground, and in a ſlow ſtream. Though he inhabits large rivers, and oftentimes little brooks, yet he is chiefly to be found in ſmall rivers of a fine ſandy gravel bottom. In the hot months they lie in much ſhallower waters, but all the reſt of the year, from Michaelmas till April, they dwell in the deepeſt places, that are moſt ſandy.

THEY ſpawn in the latter end of April, or May; and, as ſome ſay, three or four times in a year.

His Biting Time, and Baits,

HE is an admirable fiſh to enter a young angler, being eaſily taken with ſmall worms

worms and maggots. By mudding the water, and ſtirring up the ſand with a pole you may draw them together in ſhoals, and, by now and then throwing in a few chopped worms or maggots, you may take great quantities of them: your bait muſt be on or near the ground.

THEY are uſually ſcattered up and down the ſhallows of every river in the heat of ſummer; but in autumn, when the leaves begin to grow ſour or rot, and the weather begins to be cold, they keep together in the deeper parts of the water; and if you angle for them with a float or cork, your hook muſt always touch the ground. But many fiſh for the gudgeon by hand with a running line upon the ground, without a float, and is an excellent way, if you have a tender rod and as gentle a hand.

HE bites all day long from March till Michaelmas, but will not bite in very cold weather, nor for ſome time after his ſpawning, nor immediately after a ſhower or land-flood. He bites well in gloomy, warm, or hot ſun-ſhining weather, but ſeldom bites before ſun-riſing or after ſun-ſetting, but commonly begins about an hour after ſun riſes, and ceaſes, about an hour before the ſun ſets, fearing leſt he

ſhould

Of the BLEAK.

THE Bleak, which is by ſome called the freſh-water ſprat, is a fiſh ever in motion, and therefore is ſometimes called the river ſwallow: for as the ſwallow is obſerved, in ſummer evenings, to be in conſtant motion, making quick and ſhort turns upon the wing, the more eaſily to catch the flies in the air; ſo the Bleak is almoſt continually in action in the water, ſporting himſelf with ſome little flies and inſects that ſport on the ſurface.

HE is of a bright whitiſh colour; his back of a pleaſant ſea-green, and his belly ſhining, and white as the mountain ſnow.

THE Bleak, though generally reckoned of little value, yet is a good fiſh, in my opinion, if dreſſed as ſoon as taken. He has been frequently uſed to make a ſort of artificial anchovy, and is often ſold for the real; but for want of ſkill in the management, by the common artiſts, he has loſt much of his eſteem.

THE

THE Bleak is to be angled for at mid-water, with a line and five or ſix ſmall hooks, faſtened at about the diſtance of half a foot one above the other. I have often taken four of them at one time by this means: the bait has been ſmall well ſcoured maggots, than which none can be better. They may be taken with a very ſmall, fine, artificial black gnat. It is very pretty ſport to whip for them in a ſummer evening from a boat, or ſtanding on the bank-ſide, in a ſwift water, with a hazle-top, about five or ſix feet long, and a line twice the length of the rod.

Of the CHAR, *and* GUINIAD.

IN Winander-meer, in the county of Weſtmorland, are caught a very ſingular ſort of fiſh, called Char, which are found no where elſe in England or Ireland; but are ſaid to be in two lakes at Snowden, in Wales.

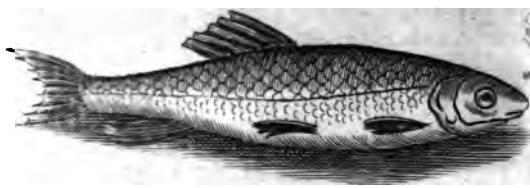
IN a ſmall but rapid river, called the Petterel, that runs near Carliſle, in the

adjoining county of Cumberland, are caught trouts about the ſame ſize with the Char; that is, from a foot to eighteen inches: which are as fine in colour, and, when potted, are not eaſily diſtinguiſhed in taſte; and are frequently, by the inhabitants, ſent to London, and ſold as Char. They take the May fly of both ſorts, the whirling dun, and indeed all the other flies in their ſeaſon. This river falls into the Eden, about a mile, north-eaſt from the city of Carliſle: and about the ſame diſtance from the city, weſtward, the river Gauda falls into the Eden. The trouts in this river are much larger than thoſe in the Petterel; in which is a particular ſpecies of trout, called the whiting, or white trout: he has no ſpots, but is of a beautiful fine colour, and his fleſh as red as the ſalmon; I believe he never exceeds twenty inches in length, for I never caught one above that length, nor did never converſe with a brother ſportſman that did. The whirling flies to be uſed in fiſhing for him cannot be too gay; they ſhould be ribbed with gold or ſilver twiſt, and the cock's hackle over all, as rough as you pleaſe. In this river, as well as in the main river Eden, above the ſalmon fiſhery, is a ſort

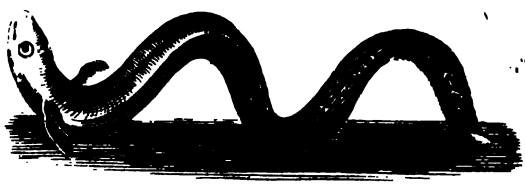
of

GUDGEON

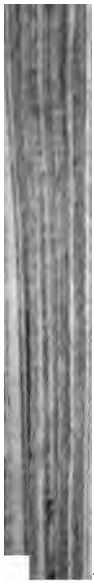
BLEAK



EEL



LOACH



of trout, called the brandling, clouded on the back like a mackerel, which never grows to be above ſeven or eight inches in length, and ſeems very much to reſemble that ſort of fiſh called gravel laſt-ſprings in the rivers Wye and Severn. In the eaſt riding of Yorkſhire is a ſmall but rapid river called Duffield Beck, in which are the fineſt trouts, for ſize and quantity, of any water I ever fiſhed in; being ſeldom leſs than two pounds, and often five or ſix pounds in weight.

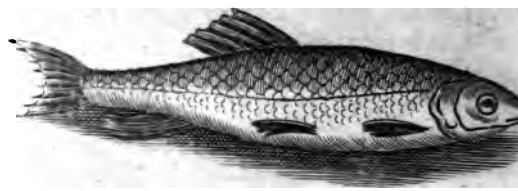
THE river Dee which riſes in Merionethſhire, runs through Pemble-meer, in Cheſhire, which is a large water, and abounds with a kind of fiſh called a Guiniad, as the river Dee does with ſalmon: and yet it is remarkable, that there never are any ſalmon caught in the meer, nor any guiniad in the river.

Of the EEL.

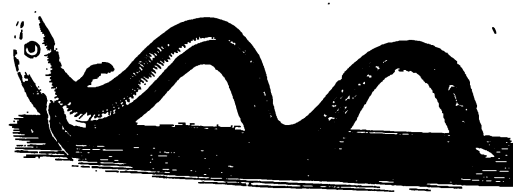
THERE are three ſorts of Eels, the Silver Eel, the Green Eel, and the Black Eel. The Silver Eel has a fine

GUDGEON

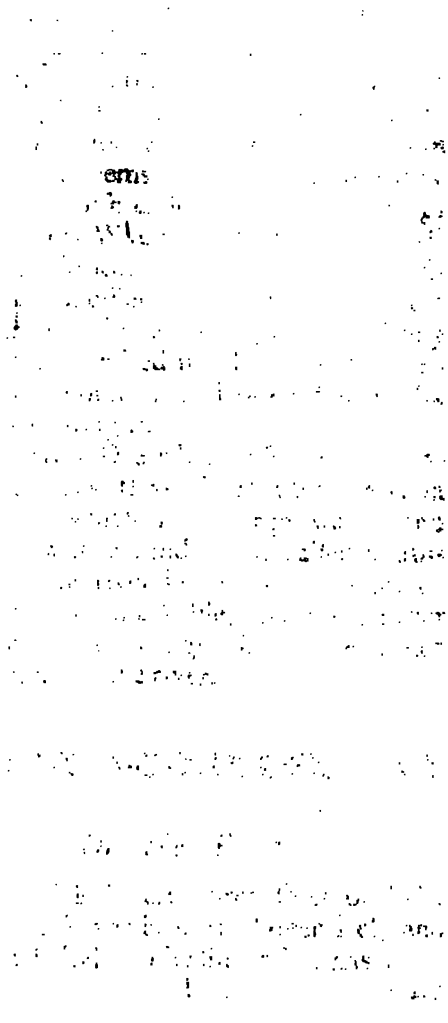
BLEAK



EEL



LOACH



DURING the winter months, they never ſtir up or down the rivers or pools wherein they uſually are, but get into the ſoft earth or mud, where many of them bed themſelves together, the better to defend them againſt the ſeverity of the weather, and there live, without feeding upon any thing (as is generally ſuppoſed). They ſeldom appear in the day time at other ſeaſons of the year, unleſs the water be mudded, and raiſed a little by rain, but are uſually caught in the night.

THEY are eſteemed a very delicious fiſh for eating, and are in ſeaſon all the year, but in their prime in May, June, and July. They have been known to live out of the water five days, the temperament of their bodies being very moiſt, as is that of many other fiſh whoſe ſhape and nature are very much like the Eel, and frequent both the ſea and freſh rivers; as the lamprey, or lamper-eel, and alſo the large conger, or ſea-eel, which are differently eſteemed according to the difference of their taſte. The large conger-eels are often taken in the Severn between Tewkeſbury and Glouceſter; and below Warrinton, in Lancaſhire: but the river Stour, in Dorſetſhire, the Aukam, in Lincolnſhire, and

and Irk, in Lancaſhire, have the pre-eminence above their neighbouring ſtreams for producing the beſt Eels.

THE Severn, and moſt navigable rivers that have a communication with the ſea, abound with infinite numbers of ſmall Eels or Elvers, which come up the river ſides early in the ſpring, as ſoon as the ſun begins to warm the water. Theſe are taken in large quantities, particularly in the Severn, and are made up in little cakes, and ſold in the markets. They call the coming up of theſe little Eels, (which is very exact and regular as to time) the Elvers running. This little fry is, without doubt, produced in the ſalt water, by the Eels that retire thither in autumn.

His Biting Time and Baits.

THERE are four ſorts of baits for taking Eels at bank-hooks, viz. the lob-worm, loach, minnow, and bull-head. The beſt ſeaſon for this is from the middle of May to the latter end of July; when the weather cannot be too warm, nor the night too dark. One very good way for this ſort of ſport is, to have a ſtrong line

that will reach acroſs the river or pond; then take ſeveral hooks, with links to them about three quarters of a yard in length, and tye them to your line about two yards diſtance. When your hooks are baited, faſten one end of your line to the bank, near the river, with a hooked ſtick; then having a peice of lead or ſtone faſtened to the other end of the line, caſt it acroſs the river or pond, and let it lie all night. With any of theſe three baits, if ſweet and freſh, you will infallibly have ſport. Or, you may uſe any of the above-mentioned baits, with a line about a yard long, faſtened to the ſmall end of a hooked ſtick, and the hook of it ſtuck into the bank; and this method is indeed moſt properly called bank-hook fiſhing. Or elſe, you may make tyes of three or four yards in length, to be thrown in at the tops and bottoms of ſtreams, with a ſtone at each end and baited in the ſame manner as the former.

THERE is another method to take Eels, which is called proaching, and is to be uſed from four o'clock, after a hot day, till ſun-ſet. For this purpoſe, you muſt have a ſtrong top rod, about a yard long, with a gooſe-quill put over the end of it, leaving the extreme end of the quill whole:

whole: then take a large and ſtrong needle, and a cat-gut for the line; whip it very faſt from the eye of the needle to the middle: then taking a large well ſcoured lob-worm, run the eye of the needle all up the worm, till it comes to the very head; ſo that the point of the needle may come out at the middle of the worm; then put the point of the needle into the top of the quill, and take the top rod and line both in your hand together. Thus you may guide your bait under any hollow wall or ſtone very gently, and if there be any Eel he will bite at it. Give him time enough till he has gorged, and then you may be ſure of him, if you do not attempt to pull him out of his hole too ſuddenly; for he lies enfolded therein, and will, with the help of his tail, break off, unleſs you give him time to be wearied with pulling; and when he is ſo, you may pull him ſlowly and gently out.

THE beſt way of taking Eels by common angling, is to take a well ſcoured red-worm, and a hook of the ſize N°. 4, with a float-line a foot ſhorter than the rod; and having fixed upon ſome ſtill quiet place, with the moſt ſandy bottom you

can find, take with you a conſiderable quantity of waſp-grubs boiled, or bullock's brains chopped fine, to bait your hole with. You muſt not forget to take another rod and line, and bait the one with the worm, and the other with the waſp-grub; by which means you will be ſure to find which they take beſt.

THERE are a great many baits to take Eels, but I look on theſe I have mentioned to be as good as if you tried an hundred ſorts. This is all I ſhall ſay of the Eel.

Of the MINNOW, *or* PINK.

THE Minnow when right in ſeaſon, and not ſick, which happens only juſt after ſpawning, is of a ſort of dappled or waved colour; his ſides inclining to a greeniſh and ſky-colour, his belly milk white, and his back almoſt black.

THESE little fiſh are all without ſcales, but for excellency of taſte may be compared with any of the larger ſized. They are uſually full of eggs or ſpawn all the ſummer

ſummer months; for they bred often, and quickly arrive at their full growth and perfection. Their numerous and frequent breeding is very neceſſary on account of their being a prey and baits for other fiſh.

HE is a very eager biter at a ſmall worm; and, in hot weather, makes excellent ſport for young anglers, boys, or women that love the recreation. He appears firſt in March, and continues to Michaelmas, and then betakes himſelf to mud, weeds, or wood in the rivers, to ſecure himſelf from floods and fiſhes of prey.

HIS biting time is from an hour after ſun-riſing, till an hour before ſun ſetting. His chief bait is a ſmall worm, either at mid-water or near the bottom. Uſe a float in angling for him.

Of the LOACH.

THE Loach is of a delicate taſte, and very wholeſome: he breeds and feeds in little, clear, and ſwift brooks or rills

rills, living on the gravel, and in the ſharpeſt ſtreams.

HIS growth is not above a finger's length, and his thickneſs proportionable. He ſomewhat reſembles the eel in ſhape; has a beard or whattles, and a mouth formed like the barbel; he has two fins on his ſides, four at his belly, and one at his tail, and is dappled with many black and brown ſpots.

THIS fiſh is uſually full of eggs or ſpawn, and is eſteemed very nouriſhing, and grateful to the palate and ſtomach of ſick perſons.

HE is to be fiſhed for with a very ſmall worm at the bottom, for he ſeldom or never riſes above the gravel.

Of the BULL-HEAD, *or* MILLER'S-THUMB.

THE Bull-head is a fiſh of no pleaſing ſhape, and reſembles the the ſea-toad fiſh. His head is large and flat, very diſproportionable to his body; his mouth wide, and uſually gaping; he has

has no teeth, but his lips are rough like a file: he has two fins near his gills, which are roundiſh or creſted, two under his belly, two on his back, one below the vent, and the tail fin is round. He is ſpeckled with whitiſh, blackiſh, and browniſh ſpots.

THEY are generally full of eggs or ſpawn all the ſummer, which ſwell their vents almoſt into the form of a dug, and they begin to ſpawn about the beginning of April.

THEY hide themſelves in holes, or among ſtones in clear water, and are eaſily ſeen upon any flat ſtone, and on the gravel, at which time the moſt inexpert angler may take them with a ſmall worm. They are more commended for their taſte and nouriſhment, than for their ſhape or beauty.

Of the STICKLEBACK, *or* JACK-SHARP.

THIS is a very ſmall inſignificant fiſh. His body is fenced with ſeveral little prickles, which are very ſharp

ſharp and pungent, and from whence he has his name.

THIS fiſh is mentioned only becauſe he makes up one of the number of freſh water fiſh, being too inconſiderable to afford the angler any ſport, unleſs it be to ſerve as a bait for a trout, to be uſed with a ſwivel line, for which purpoſe he is equally good as the minnow.

Of the LAMPREY.

THIS fiſh comes up out of the ſalt water about the ſame time as the ſhad, and is of little ſervice to the diverſion of the angler, refuſing all kinds of baits: and is uſually taken in wheels or baſkets, made of twigs, and faſtened to the bottom of the water for that purpoſe.

THE Lamprey may very properly be ſaid to be the freſh water viper, from the uncommon highneſs and delicacy of his flavour; for which reaſon they are commonly ſold at an exceſſive price at their firſt coming, and, when ſtewed or potted, are greatly admired by the curious.

HE

HE is commonly of the ſize and length of a large eel, but ſomewhat rounder and fuller in the body. His back and ſides are clouded and variegated like the mackrel. He has a roundiſh open mouth, of a diſagreeable form, though neceſſary for the purpoſe of his ſubſiſtence, which is by ſuction, for which reaſon he has ſeveral large round holes on each ſide, for the reception and emiſſion of water. They are very plentiful in the Severn about Glouceſter and upwards, as far as Worceſter.

THERE is another ſort, which are commonly taken about November, called Lamperns, which are exactly of the ſame form and ſhape, but much leſs, not exceeding the thickneſs of one's thumb: they are generally thought to differ from the Lamprey in the ſame manner as the ſamlet does from the ſalmon.

Of the SHAD.

THE Shad is a fiſh that comes up out of the ſalt water early in the ſpring into the large rivers that have a commu-

communication with the ſea, and is very differently eſteemed according to the rivers he comes into. In the Severn, he is a very delicious good fiſh, eſpecially the large ones, and, by ſome, not reckoned inferior to the ſalmon: whereas in the Thames, about London, he is diſregarded as a coarſe fiſh, good for little, except the brightneſs of his ſcales, which are frequently made into necklaces, pretty near the reſemblance of pearl.

HE has a ſmall head in proportion to his ſize; a thick back, and a deep broad body growing taper towards the tail: and is in ſeaſon from the time of his coming up till the middle of May, when the heat of the weather makes him lean and full of ſmall bones.

HE affords the angler no ſport, taking no bait that I know of, otherwiſe would have deſerved a deſcription among the beſt kinds of fiſh. There is an inſtance of a gentleman who caught one with an artificial fly in the river Teme, near Worceſter, but I imagine he took it more out of wantonneſs than hunger.

OF

OF

FLY-FISHING;

With Directions for making the

ARTIFICIAL FLY.

I AM now come to the moſt entertaining and delightful part of the ſportſman's diverſion, Fly-fiſhing; of which nothing can be ſaid too much in commendation. If the other branches of angling are both pleaſant and profitable, this is much more ſo on many accounts. It is the cleaneſt and neateſt that can poſſibly be imagined, being quite free from the trouble of baiting your hook, or fouling your fingers. The exerciſe it requires you to take is moderate and gentle, not being confined long to any one part of the river, but moving from ſtream to ſtream. The fiſh that are caught in this manner, are of the beſt and moſt delicate ſorts, and

and when the weather and water are favourable, commonly in large numbers. Even the preparation of the materials for the artificial fly, and the ſkill and contrivance in making them, and comparing them with the natural, is a very pleaſant amuſement. The manner of the fiſhes taking them, which is by riſing to the top of the water, and ſometimes out of it, gives the angler a very agreeable ſurpriſe, and the length of the line, greatly adds to the pleaſure of tiring and killing them after they are hooked. But I haſten to the art itſelf.

Of the ſeveral Sorts of FLIES, *and their* SEASONS.

THE Red Fly.
Blue dun Fly.
Brown Fly.
Cow-dun Fly.
Stone Fly.
Granam Fly.
Spider Fly.
Black Gnat.
Black Caterpillar Fly.
Iron-blue Fly.
Sally Fly.
Canon, or *Down-hill Fly.*
Shorn Fly.

May

May Fly.
Gray Drake.
Orl Fly.
Sky-coloured Blue Fly.
Gadis Fly.
Fern Fly.
Red Spinner.
Blue Gnat.
Large Red Ant.
Large Black Ant.
Welſhman's Button.
Little Red Ant.
Little Black Ant.
Little Whirling Blue.
Little Pale Blue.
Willow Fly.

THESE are all very tempting and certain Flies, which the angler may depend upon for ſport, and which I ſhall preſently deſcribe in their regular ſeaſons. There are many other Flies taken notice of in ſome treatiſes of angling, which may poſſibly be of uſe in ſome rivers; the principal of which I ſhall juſt mention to ſatisfy the curioſiity of my brother anglers; but I never think it worth while to make any of them artificially.

The Dun fly.
Ruddy fly.
Black fly.
Sandy-yellow fly.
Mooriſh fly.
Twine fly.
Waſp fly.
Shell fly.
Dark drake fly.
Dark brown fly.
Prime dun fly.
Black May palmer worm.
Camlet fly.
Oak fly.
Owl fly.

Brown

Brown gnat. *Hearth fly.*
Green ſhining fleſh fly. *Badger fly.*
Harry long legs. *Yellow-dun fly.*

THESE are mentioned, as I ſaid, only for curioſity or variety; therefore, I proceed to the deſcription of thoſe in my firſt catalogue.

The RED FLY.

COMES down the latter end of February, and continues till the middle of March.

HE is made of a dark drake's feather; and the body of a red hackle, and the red part of a ſquirrel's fur. He has four wings, and they lye flat on his back.

HE comes on very plentifully in cold ſtormy days.

The

The BLUE-DUN FLY.

COMES down in the beginning of March; and will kill fiſh, in the forenoon, till the middle of April.

HE is made of a blue duck's feather, or ſtarling's wing, with a blue cock's hackle; the dubbing, yellow mohair, mixed with the blue fur of a fox.

AS he ſwims down the water, his wings ſtand upright on his back: his tail is forked, and of the colour of his wings. He comes down about ten o'clock, and continues till twelve, in great quantities: but is always thickeſt on the water in cloudy gloomy days.

YOU may fiſh with a worm in the morning till the flies come down, which will not vary above half an hour, or an hour, from the time mentioned; and then, if the water be in order for the fly, is your time to begin to uſe it.

The

The BROWN FLY, *or* DUN DRAKE.

BEGINS to come down about the middle of March, and continue till the middle of April if the weather be favourable.

HE is made of a partridge or pheaſant's feather; the body of a partridge's hackle, with hair's fur under it, ribbed with yellow ſilk. This fly was formerly made of a dun drakes feather, with hare's fur only; which, in my opinion, is not the colour of the fly.

THE red fly, the blue fly, and the Brown Fly, frequently appear upon the water all at one time; but there is no neceſſity of fiſhing with the red fly after they have taſted the blue fly. They take the blue fly in a morning, till the Brown Fly comes on, which he does about eleven, and then they take the Brown till two or three o'clock. In this order they continue till the latter end of the month.

THERE are four or five ſorts of flies in April which I ſhall mention immediately; only obſerve in general, that the fly which comes

comes firſt according to the month, is the firſt fly that is to be uſed that day, and then you will ſee the other flies coming on according to their time; and you may obſerve the fiſh take the former, and leave the latter. Thus they continue their ſucceſſion in their ſeveral days, weeks, and months.

The COW-DUNG FLY,

COMES on about the middle of March, and continues till the latter end of April, but it is not to be fiſhed with unleſs it be a cold windy day.

HIS wings are made with the blue feather of a hen tipped with yellow; they lie flat on his back: his body is made of lemon colour'd mohair, with a yellow feather about it.

HE is to be made in the ſame form as the large horſe ant fly.

The STONE FLY.

COMES in the beginning of April, and continues to the latter end of May. He is chiefly to be fiſhed with from about the break of day till ſeven in the morning: likewiſe from ſeven in the evening all night long (if thought proper) either in the natural or artificial way.

THEY are found in little ſtony brooks, and muſt be fiſhed with (in the natural way) upon a ſmall worm hook, and drawn upon the ſhank of it, with a line about a yard longer than the rod, and uſed in a middle water.

THIS fly is made of the brown feather of a hen. His belly is of a dirty yellow, and his back of the dark brown. His body is made of a yellow or brown ſpaniel's hair, or Mohair, with the grizzled hackle of a cock round it.

THIS fly, natural or artificial, is to be fiſhed with in deep rapid ſtreams.

The

The GRANAM FLY, *or* GREEN TAIL.

THIS fly comes about the beginning of April, if the weather be mild: they appear upon the water in great quantities in bright mornings; but in cold ſtormy days there are but few of them to be ſeen: and then is the time to uſe the brown fly. The Granam Fly is tender, and unable to endure the cold; its continuance on the water is not above a week or nine days.

THIS fly is made of a feather out of the wing of a pheaſant, which is full of fine ſhades, reſembling the wings of this fly, which lie flat on his back as he ſwims down the water: his body is made of the black part of hare's fur, with a peacock's harl over it, and the grizzled hackle of a cock wrapped twice round, under the butt of the wings.

SOME frequently make this fly with a green tail, which I could never find to be of any ſervice. The green tail fly is the female, which loſes its tail as ſoon as it

lights upon the water. I take this to be the egg of the fly, for I have caught two of them which have been joined together, and put them into a box for twenty-four hours: upon opening the box, I found they were parted, and that one of them had a ſmall lump of green at its tail, about the bigneſs of a pin's head; this I kept twelve hours longer, when the green part came from it like an egg. This induces me to think it is the female fly; and I preſume that moſt other flies breed after the ſame manner.

The SPIDER FLY,

COMES about the middle of April, if it be a favourable ſpring.

THE wings are made of a woodcock's feather, that lies under the butt end of the wing; the body of lead-coloured ſilk, with a black cock's hackle wrapped twice or thrice round: the body muſt be made in the ſhape of the ant fly.

THIS fly appears in bright and warm days, and comes out of beds of gravel by the

the water-ſide, where you may find them in bunches from the middle to the latter end of the month, in warm ſun-ſhining days; but in cold and ſtormy weather they diſappear.

DURING their ſeaſon, they are found covered up in beds of gravel, and all engendering, in order for their production next year.

THIS fly is never ſeen in any month of the year but April.

The BLACK GNAT.

HE begins to appear about the middle of April.

HIS wing is to be made of a light ſky-coloured blue hackle; the body of an oſtridge's feather.

THIS gnat is to be uſed in cold ſtormy days, and continues till the latter end of May.

The BLACK CATERPILLER FLY,

COMES about the middle of April, if the weather be warm.

HIS wings are made of a jay's feather, one part blue and the other part black; and his body of a feather out of the top of a plover, with a dark hackle over it. The body of this fly is of a fine ſhag like velvet, which the plover's feather makes incomparably well.

HE continues till the middle of May, and is to be fiſhed with after warm mornings, provided there come winds and clouds; for then they grow weak for want of the ſun, and fall upon the water in great numbers.

The LITTLE IRON BLUE FLY,

BEGINS to come down early in May, and is in greateſt perfection about the middle of the month. There are

are few of them to be ſeen in warm or hot weather, but in cold or ſtormy days they come in great quantities.

THE wing of this fly is made of a cormorant's feather that lies under the wing, in the ſame form as thoſe of a gooſe: the body is made with the furr of a wount or mole, or rather a water-rat's furr, if you can have it, ribbed with yellow ſilk, and a grizzle hackle wrapped twice or thrice round. His wings ſtand upright on his back, with a little forked tail.

THIS fly is greatly admired by the grayling; and continues from the middle of May to the middle of June.

The YELLOW SALLY FLY,

APPEARS about the middle of May, and continues till the latter end of the ſame month.

His wings are made of a yellow cock's hackle, by reaſon of its ſhining gloſſineſs, which no dyed colour can come up to; he has four wings which lie flat upon his back:

his body is made with yellow dubbing, mixed with dark brown fur, and a yellow hackle round it.

THIS fly, the canon fly, and the ſhorn fly, are the three flies that prepare the fiſh to look for the yellow cadow, or May fly.

The CANON FLY,

COMES down about a fortnight in May, and is an exceeding good fly for bobbing at the buſh in the natural way, or for the long line in the artificial. He continues till the yellow cadow comes down, and is to be found on the butts of oaks, and other trees near the water-ſide, with his head commonly downwards; for which reaſon he has generally obtained the name of the Down-hill fly.

HIS wings are made of a feather out of a woodcock's wing; and his body of a bittern's feather.

THIS fly (as I have lately been informed by a gentleman of veracity) is bred in the balls that grow on the boughs of large oaks,

oaks, commonly called oak-apples: this he accidentally diſcovered by opening ſeveral of theſe balls, (that had been gathered in the winter, and brought into the houſe) in each of which he found the Canon Fly: ſome of them, being enlivened by the warmth of the room, immediately took flight, and fixed in the window with the head downwards, the poſition they obſerve in the trees.

The SHORN FLY.

THIS fly comes about the ſame time with the former, and continues till the middle of June. He is frequently found in mowing of graſs, and a huſky wing of a dark brown colour, with fine clear blue wings underneath, which he makes uſe of in his flight.

THIS fly is of the caterpiller kind: the female fly is of a dull red. They are in the greateſt perfection about mowing time, for after the graſs is cut few are to be ſeen. It is as killing a fly as any I know till the May fly comes in, yet has been taken but

very little notice of by anglers, though it is the only fly to fiſh with in the forenoon, before the yellow cadow comes down. His continuance on the water is the ſame as the yellow cadow.

THE wings of this fly are made of a jay's feather, taken out of the wing, mixed with a little black and blue; and the body is made of fleſh-coloured ſilk, and a red hackle about it.

THIS fly will never fail killing fiſh, if the water be in order.

The MAY FLY, *or* YELLOW CADOW.

HE comes down the water about a week in May, but is not in full perfection till the twentieth, or between that and the thirtieth; and is a prodigious killing fly, as well upon ſtanding water as upon ſtreams.

THE wings of this fly are made of the feather of a grey drake dyed yellow; the body is made of the yellow wool of a ram

or

ır wheather, ribbed with a dark-brown, vhich no feather ſuits ſo well as the hackle of a bittern; it likewiſe makes the legs ery artificially; his head, which is of a lark-brown, is made with a peacock's arl: his wings ſtand upright on his back s he ſwims down the water, with a long orked tail, made with the hair or wiſks of fitchow. He is a very large fly, and is o be made upon a ſmall worm-hook, of he ſize commonly called by anglers N°. 4.

THIS fly is moſt plentiful in gravelly, ır ſtony rivers, and but few to be ſeen on lead dull waters. He and the grey drake which ſucceeds him) are the fiſhes chief lelight above all others; for there is no ther bait, either fly or inſect, which the iſh ſhew themſelves at ſo much or ſo oldly: they not only take them at the op of the water, but as they come from he bottom and ſides where they are bred huſks, which they quit when they riſe o the top of the water.

DURING their ſeaſon they are a moſt lentiful feed for birds as well as fiſh. They come upon the water about ten o' lock, and continue to ſun-ſetting; and hough there are hundreds of flies and in- ects on the river the ſame day, both fiſh

and birds will forſake them all and theſe.

IT has been an opinion generall ceived among my brother anglers, tha May Fly proceeds from the cod-bait; I find by experience that this is a very miſtake, for the cod-bait produces a different fly, call'd the cadis, or cod fly, which I ſhall preſently have occ to deſcribe. I have lately had an opp nity of convincing ſome gentlemen ver rious in the art, who were of that op till they had the ſatisfaction of ſeein cadis flies produced from cod-baits: w I ſent for that purpoſe about the tir their change. The May Fly, whe embrio, is incloſed in a longer and r ſmaller huſk, which is ſharp, and po at one end like a cock's ſpur.

The GREY DRAKE.

THE Grey Drake comes a a week or nine days after former, if the weather be cool; but be hot and ſultry, he will be on in tw

t

three days after the yellow fly: but you muſt not mind him, to fiſh with him, till four or five days after he is come, except it be in the evenings, from ſix o'clock to ſun-ſetting. For, though the fiſh take the yellow one very well in the former part of the day, yet when they come on in great quantities in the evenings, they will not touch them.

IN fiſhing with this fly, you muſt endeavour to imitate the riſing and falling of him upon the water, for he never ſwims ſo regularly as the yellow one, but is generally in motion, friſking up and down; for which reaſon he is, in ſome places, called the Tilt-up fly.

SOME are of opinion that this is a very difficult fly to make; but, I think, it is not ſo difficult to make him as to fiſh with him after he is made: therefore, if poſſible, caſt your line ſo as to drop directly over the fiſhes head, which will beſt reſemble the method of this fly's dropping on the water, when the fiſh immediately fly at him: all other flies ſhould be thrown a yard about the head of the fiſh, becauſe they all ſwim gradually down the water.

THE wings of this fly are made with part of a grey drake's feather, mixed with the grey

grey part of a widgeon's feather: the body is beſt made of a fine oaten ſtraw, becauſe it is leaſt liable to change its colour. Several make it with white cotton, but if you make it thus, there muſt be a good deal of ſilver twiſt with it. Beſure you rib it very thick towards the tail with the the dark hackle of a bittern, and leave the body clear towards the but end of the wing. His tail is three forked, about an inch and a half long, and is made with the long hairs or wiſks of a fitchow's tail: his head is of a dark brown, and made of a peacock's harl.

THE male and female fly of the yellow ſort are both of the ſame colour, but of the grey are ſomewhat different: the female is beſt made of the oaten ſtraw, with a light grey drake's feather for the wing; and the male with moſt of the widgeon's feather for the wing, and the body of ſilver twiſt with a little cotton.

SINCE I entered upon this work, the following ingenious account of this fly has been communicated to me, by a gentleman who is a very accurate obſerver of the productions of nature; which, as it may be matter of curioſity and entertainment to

ſome

ſome of my readers, I ſhall here give it them, as briefly, and as near his own words as I can.

I HAPPENED to walk by the river-ſide at that ſeaſon of the year when the May flies, (he means the grey ſort) which are a ſpecies of the libella, come up out of the water, where they lie in their huſks for a conſiderable time, at the bottom or ſides of rivers, near the likeneſs of the nymph of the common ſmall libella; but when it is mature it ſplits open its caſe, and then, with great agility, up ſprings the new little animal, with a ſlender body, four blackiſh, veined, tranſparent wings, the upper ones having four black ſpots, and being much larger than the under ones; and three long hairs in its tail. The huſks which are left behind float innumerable upon the water.

IT ſeemed to me to be a ſpecies of ephemeron, and I imagined it to be the ſame inſect deſcribed by Goodart and Swammerdam: but a few days convinced me of the contrary, for I ſoon found them to be of longer duration than theirs.

THE firſt buſineſs of this creature, after he is diſengaged from the water, is to look out for a proper place to fix on, to wait another

ſurpriſing

ſurpriſing change, which is effected in two or three days. The firſt hint I received of this operation was ſeeing the exuviæ hanging upon a hedge: I then collected a great number of the inſects, and put them into boxes, and by ſtrictly obſerving them, I could tell when they were ready to put off their cloaths, though but ſo lately put on. I had the pleaſure to ſhew my friends one that I held on my finger all the while it performed this great work. It was ſurpriſing to ſee how eaſily the back part of the fly ſplit open and produced the new birth, which I could not perceive partook any thing of its parent, but left head, body, wings, and even its three hair'd tail behind on the caſe. After it has repoſed itſelf awhile it flies to ſeek its mate.

IN the new fly a remarkable difference is ſeen in the ſexes, which I could not ſo eaſily perceive in the firſt ſtate; the male and female being then much of a ſize, but now the male was much the ſmalleſt, and the hairs in his tail longeſt.

I WAS very careful to ſee if I could diſcover them engendering; but all that I find was, that the males ſeparated and keeping under cover of the trees remote from the river: hither the females reſorted,

and

and mixed with them in their flight (great numbers together) with a very briſk motion; darting at one another, when they met, with great vigour, juſt as houſe flies will do in a ſunny room. This they continued to do for many hours, and this ſeemed their way of coition, which muſt be quick, and ſoon performed, as they are of ſhort duration. When the females were impregnated, they left the company of the males, and ſought the river, conſtantly playing up and down on the water. It was very plainly ſeen every time they darted down they ejected a cluſter of eggs, which ſeemed a pale blueiſh ſpeck, like a ſmall drop of milk, as it deſcended in the water; then, by the help of their tail, they ſpring up again, and deſcend again; and thus continue, till they have exhauſted their ſtock of eggs, and ſpent their ſtrength, being ſo weak that they can riſe no more, but fall a prey to the fiſh; but much the greateſt number periſh on the waters, which are covered with them. This is the end of the females. The males never reſort to the rivers, as I could perceive, but after they have done their office, drop down, languiſh, and die under the trees and buſhes.

I obſerved that the females were moſt numerous, which is very neceſſary, conſidering the many enemies they have during the ſhort time of their exiſtence, for both birds and fiſh are very fond of them; and, no doubt, under water they are a food for ſmall aquatic inſects.

WHAT is further remarkable in this ſurpriſing creature is, that in a life of a few days it eats nothing, ſeems to have no apparatus for that purpoſe, but brings up with it out of the water, ſufficient ſupport to enable it to ſhed its ſkin, and perform the principal end of its life with great vivacity.

THE particular time when I obſerved them very numerous and ſportive, was on the 26th of May, about 6 o'clock in the evening. It was a ſight very ſurpriſing and entertaining, to ſee the river teeming with innumerable pretty, nimble, flying inſects, and almoſt every thing near covered with them. When I looked up into the air, it was full of them as high as I could diſcern: being ſo thick and always moving, they appeared as when one looks up and ſees ſnow coming down. This wonderful ſight, in three or four days after the end of May, totally diſappeared.

The

The ORLE FLY.

COMES down the latter end of May, or the beginning of June, and continues till the latter end of June, and is the beſt fly to fiſh with after the May flies are gone.

THE wings of this fly are made of a dark grizzel'd cock's hackle; his body of a peacock's harl, with very dark red ſilk. He has four wings, which lie flat on his back as he ſwims down the water.

THIS fly is to be fiſhed with in the warmeſt weather, and you may uſe it with ſucceſs from ten o'clock till four in the afternoon, at which time the fiſh leave off the Orle Fly, and take the ſky-coloured blue.

The SKY-COLOURED BLUE FLY,

IS on at the ſame ſeaſon with the former, but never appears in the evening, after a very hot day.

His

HIS wings are made of the feather of a light blue hen, with a yellowiſh gloſs: the body ſeems, as he flies, of a bright yellow; but is made of a light blue fur, mixed with a bright yellow, with a ſilver grizzel'd hackle over it.

THIS fly comes on about the middle of June, and continues till the middle of July.

The CADIS FLY,

WHICH I before mentioned to proceed from the cod-bait, begins to come about a week in June; and is a large fly, having four pale-yellow wings, all of one colour, and a pale yellow body, ribbed with dark brown.

THE wings are made of a yellow hen's feather: the body, of a buff-colour yellow fur, ribbed with dark brown ſilk, and a yellow hackle three times round.

THIS fly continues till about a week in July before they are all gone; and is to be fiſhed with at the clearing of the wa-

ter,

er, after it has been diſcoloured, when no ther fly will do ſo well.

THE dwelling place of this little creature, while in the ſtate of a grub, is greatly o be admired; being a ſmall huſk uriouſly wrought on the outſide with mall bits of gravel and ſlime, after the nanner of ſtucco work. The grub itſelf s a very choice bait at bottom fiſhing, as vill be ſhewn hereafter.

The FERN FLY.

THE Fern Fly comes in about the latter end of June, and does ot continue above a week. He has four vings that ſtand upright on his back.

HIS wings and body are made of a voodcock's feather, ribbed with orange oloured ſilk.

HE is to be fiſhed with in a morning, he firſt of any fly, till abot eleven o'clock, nd then you may change your fly accordng to the brightneſs or dullneſs of the ay, for there are many flies on at that ime.

The

The RED SPINNER.

HE comes down the beginning of July, and continues till the middle of that month.

HE is to be fiſhed with only in the evenings of very hot days.

THE wings are made of a grey drake's feather, lightly tinged with a yellow gloſs; the body is made of a gold twiſt, with a red hackle over it.

The BLUE GNAT,

APPEARS at the ſame time as the red ſpinner.

IT does not avail to fiſh with him, unleſs the water be very low and fine; and then, in hot weather he is ſometimes taken very eagerly.

THE wings of this gnat are made of a light blue cock's hackle, the body of the blue furr of a fox mixed with ſome yellow.

The

The LARGE RED ANT FLY,

AS well as the black, comes in about the middle of June, if the weather be hot, and continues for about a week or nine days. Obſerve that theſe two Ant Flies that come firſt, are the large horſe ants.

THE wings of this Red Fly are made of a feather out of the wing of a ſtarling, of a duſky colour: the body of hog's down, died of an amber colour. He muſt be made very large at the tail, and ſmall towards the wing: with a red cock's hackle wrapped twice round under the butt end of the wing.

The LARGE BLACK ANT FLY,

COMES down at the ſame time as the red one.

THE wings of this fly are made of the lighteſt ſky-coloured blue feather you can get,

get, and of the greateſt gloſs; of which it will be difficult to find any that can come up to the natural wing: the body is made of an oſtridge's black feather, and a black cock's hackle wrapped twice round under the wing. This fly is to be made in the ſame form as the red one.

The WELSHMAN'S BUTTON.

THE Welſhman's Button, or Hazle Fly, comes in the latter end of July. It has an outer huſky wing, and a ſmall blue one under it; and is round as a button, from whence it has its name.

THEY are found upon hazle-trees and fern buſhes; and as ſoon as the buſhes are touched they drop down. They are as good for bobbing at the buſh in this month, as the canon, or down hill fly is in May.

THE wing is made of a dark hackle feather of a pheaſant; and the body of the dark part of camel's hair.

The

The LITTLE RED *and* BLACK ANT FLIES.

THEY come down the beginning of Auguſt; but very ſeldom appear on the water till between one and four in the afternoon.

THEY are made of the ſame materials that the large ones are, and in the ſame ſhape, but only half ſo large.

The LITTLE WHIRLING BLUE.

COMES down the beginning of Auguſt, and continues about a fortnight.

THE wings are made of the blue feather of a ſea-gull; and the body of the red part of a ſquirrel's furr, ribbed with yellow, and a red hackle over it.

THIS fly is only to be uſed in the evening, and in warm weather.

The LITTLE PALE BLUE.

HE comes down the beginning of Auguſt, and continues till the middle of September. It is a fly that the graylings greatly admire, which are in perfection at this ſeaſon, and afford the angler much ſport.

The wings of this fly are made of the lighteſt blue feather of a ſea-ſwallow: the body is made of the blueſt part of a fox's furr, with a very little yellow mohair mixed with it, ribbed with a ſtraw-coloured ſilk, and a fine pale-blue hackle over it.

THIS fly continues till the willow fly comes, and afterwards till the weather grows cold.

The WILLOW FLY.

THIS fly comes on the middle of Auguſt, or ſometimes ſooner, and continues till the dun blue comes again.

HE

HE has four wings which lie flat on his back: his belly of a dirty yellow, and his back of a dark brown,

HIS wings are made of a dun cock's hackle a little freckled; his body of ſquirrel's furr, ribbed with yellow ſilk, and covered lightly with the ſame coloured hackle as the wings.

IN cold ſtormy days you muſt chiefly uſe this fly; but in warm gloomy days you muſt fiſh with the pale blue, and theſe two flies carry out the ſeaſon for fly-fiſhing.

FROM the latter end of May till the beginning of Auguſt, you will find fifteen or ſixteen different ſorts of gnats and flies on the water every day: and then, if the weather be warm, you muſt obſerve it as a general rule, to fiſh with the firſt fly that comes on in a morning; and then you will ſee the other flies coming down gradually: and, as the fiſh leave off one and take another you muſt vary your fly according to your diſcretion and obſervation. From about the middle of Auguſt you will find moſt of the other flies fall off, except the little whirling blue, the pale blue, the willow fly, and ſome ſmall gnats that are of little or no ſignification; and

and theſe three autumn flies I reckon to be of equal value to the three firſt ſpring flies, viz. the red fly, the blue dun, and the brown drake. In theſe two ſeaſons, if the weather and water be favourable, you will find your ſport more regular and certain than in the hotter months; one reaſon of which, among others, is, that in the hotter months the rivers abound with a great variety of inſects, which makes the fiſh more difficult to be taken; and in the ſpring you have the advantage of having the river fuller of fiſh, before they are diſturbed with nets, &c.

THE flies that I have mentioned, are found on all rivers that ever I was acquainted with; only the May fly and grey drake are much more ſcarce on ſome rivers than others; and therefore, where they are ſcarce, and the fiſh not well acquainted with them, leſs ſport is to be expected than where they are plentiful. It is commonly ſaid, that flies differ according to the rivers, but I will be bold to ſay they are all alike in their kinds, ſome little difference there may poſſibly be in their colours, ariſing from the nature of the ſoil through which the rivers run, or from the difference

difference of men's fancies; but if every river was to produce different ſorts of flies and inſects, there would be a thouſand times more than there are.

THUS have I given a full account of all the flies and gnats that are moſt neceſſary for angling, except two ſalmon flies, viz.

The Dragon Fly, and *Peacock Fly*; and two night flies, viz.

The Brown Fly, and *White Fly*; which yet remain to be deſcribed.

The DRAGON FLY.

HE feeds on ſmall inſects ſcarce diſcernable to the naked eye, great numbers of which I have taken out of the mouth of one theſe flies: they catch them in the ſame manner that ſwallows do, by flying at them.

THE head of this fly is almoſt all eyes; he has four wings of a dark browniſh colour, and his body is of the ſame. The

bodies of ſome of them are two inches and a half long.

THIS fly comes in about the middle of May, and continues to the latter end of June.

The KING-FISHER, *or* PEACOCK FLY.

THIS fly feeds on the ſame inſects with the former.

HE is called the King-fiſher from the beautifulneſs of his colour; but I ſhould think the Peacock Fly to be the moſt proper name for him, for there can be nothing ſo like the wings and body of this fly, as the feather that grows on the neck of a peacock.

HE comes in about the ſame time as the former, and continues three weeks or a month longer.

The

The BROWN NIGHT FLY.

HE is made of the brown feather of a hen, and the body of the ſame colour.

THIS is properly a moth, which flies by night only: and is to be uſed (if you are inclined for night fiſhing) in a dark gloomy night, after a warm day. When you fiſh in this manner, uſe a line about a yard longer than the rod, and put a couple of maggots at the point of the hook, which will be of great advantage to the ſmelling part.

IT will take fiſh both in ſtreams and ſtanding waters, and you may hear them riſe in as much perfection as if you were fiſhing by day. They will continue to bite till day-break, if the night be gloomy and cloudy; but if it be a moon-ſhining or ſtar-light night, they will not ſtir at theſe flies, any more than they will at the day flies in a bright day.

The WHITE NIGHT FLY.

THIS fly is, in my opinion, the beſt of the two.

HE is made of the white owl's feather, on account of the ſoftneſs of it, upon a middle ſized worm hook; the body of the ſame colour as the wings, and as big as a very large wheat ſtraw.

He is in perfection about the latter end of May, and continues till the latter end of June; when, if you ſet out with an intent of killing a diſh of fiſh in the day, and fail of ſucceſs, you may be ſure of taking them at night, if you are ſo diſpoſed, and this night fly is on the water.

HAVING now given an account of the principal flies requiſite to furniſh out the diverſion of anglers; with their ſeveral ſeaſons, and the propereſt materials for forming them; it will be neceſſary, before I conclude the ſubject of Fly-fiſhing, to lay down the beſt directions I am able for making the artificial fly.

The

The Manner of Making and Uſing the ARTIFICIAL FLY.

WHEN you make an artificial fly, you muſt, in the firſt place, make choice of a hook proportionable to the fly you intend: this muſt be whipped on to your Indian graſs, gut, or hair, in the ſame manner you would whip on a worm hook, only obſerving, that inſtead of faſtening near the bend of the hook, (as is uſual in the other way) you muſt faſten your ſilk near the top of the ſhank, and let it remain. Then taking as much feather as is neceſſary for the wings, lay it as even as you can upon the upper ſide of the ſhank, with the butt end of the feather downwards, towards the bend of the hook, and tye it faſt three or four times round with the ſilk: then, with a pin or needle, divide the wings as equal as you can, and taking your ſilk, croſs it three or four times between them, bringing the ſilk ſtill downwards, towards the bend of the hook: then taking your hackle feather, tie it faſt at the bend of the hook with the

point of the hackle upwards. Next, your furr or dubbing being ready, (which is to make the body of the fly) take a little of it and twiſt it gently round your ſilk, and work it upwards towards the butt end of the wings, and there faſten it: then take your hackle, rib it neatly over the dubbing, and faſten it; then bending the wings, and putting them into the form you deſign, bring on the butt end of your hackle towards the head, and there faſten it firm: then taking a bit of dubbing or furr, as near the colour of the head of the fly as you can, whip it twice or thrice round with the ſilk, and then faſten it juſt above the wings: ſo your fly is compleated.

I CONFESS no directions can well be given for making a fly, the way of doing it ſometimes varying according to the fly you make uſe of, or according to the fancy of the artiſt; yet theſe rules, with a little practice, will in ſome meaſure aſſiſt an ingenious angler; but to ſee a fly made by a ſkillful artiſt is the beſt manner of learning. It is alſo very neceſſary, as you walk by the river, to take notice of the particular kind of fly the trouts leap at, then catching one of them, and having a bag of materials ready provided for the purpoſe,

try

try how near art can imitate nature, and though you fail at firſt, yet by diligent obſervation and experience you will ſoon arrive at perfection, and take a particular pleaſure in fly-making.

THE art of managing your rod and throwing your fly is no more to be learned by rules than that of making him; only I would adviſe the young ſportſman, never to encumber himſelf with too much line, no longer at moſt than the breadth of the river he fiſhes in. In raiſing your line, obſerve to wave your rod a little round your head, rather than bring it directly backwards; and take care not to make a return of your line till it has gone to its full length behind you: otherwiſe you will be very apt to whip off your fly. The greateſt ſkill is to make your line fall as lightly as poſſible on the water, eſpecially in ſmooth gliding ſtreams, for if it falls heavy, ſo as to daſh the water, you will be ſure to affright, and not catch the fiſh. When you ſee a fiſh riſe at the natural fly, the beſt way is to throw a yard above him, rather than directly over his head, and let the fly move gently towards him, by which means you will ſhew it him more naturally, and he will be the more tempt-

ed to take it. But nothing except your own experience and practice can make you a maſter in this art, ſo as to throw exactly behind trees and buſhes into holes and curls of the water, for there the beſt fiſh commonly lie.

OF

BOTTOM-FISHING.

The COD-BAIT.

THE Cod bait, or Cadis, is one of the moſt excellent baits for bottom fiſhing, and therefore I ſhall begin with it.

THEY are found in gravelly and ſtony brooks or rivulets, and chiefly under ſtones. When you get them, you will obſerve that ſome of them will ſtick to the ſtones, and theſe are the ripeſt and beſt coloured. When you have got as many as you want, put them into a linen bag, and after you

have tied them up, dip them in the water, and keep them five or ſix days, dipping the bag once a day, which will bring them fit for uſe, making them yellow, and as tough as earth-worms.

To diſtinguiſh the ſeveral ſorts of theſe cadis worms, to obſerve what fly each of them is turned to, and to know how to make uſe of them in both ſhapes, are things that ſhew the angler's niceſt ſkill. They differ very much according to the ſoil wherein they are bred, and are produced chiefly in little rills that run into larger rivers; therefore are a more proper bait for thoſe rivers than any other. They are a fine bait for trout and grayling.

How to Uſe the COD-BAIT.

ABOUT a week or nine days in May Cod-bait fiſhing comes in ſeaſon; which is the firſt bait to be uſed in a morning, and may be continued to the middle of the day.

IT is an excellent bait till the middle of June, and is to be uſed with a hook leaded on the ſhank, and the Cod-bait drawn on

to the top of it It will take in deep waters as well as in ſtreams, by moving it up and down about nine inches or a foot from the bottom: this is commonly called ſink and draw. There is another method of fiſhing with Cod-bait at mid-water, but then you muſt put a canon-fly at the point of your hook.

THIS bait is as good a botttom bait as any that I know, if the water be clear; and is to be preferred to the worm at leaſt three degrees to one, becauſe all ſorts of pool fiſh, and even the eel are great lovers of it. This bait I always fiſh with myſelf in the morning, while the May fly is on; and I dare be bold to ſay, there is not any fiſh upon his feed that will refuſe it. The Cod-bait may be made artificially, and ſo near to the natural, that, in the water, it is impoſſible to diſtinguiſh the one from the other.

The GRASS-HOPPER,

IS likewiſe a curious fine bait, which comes in about the latter end of June.

THE

THE young ones are produced about the middle of May, and are to be found on the joints and knots of moſt ſorts of herbs and graſs in the fields, in a white fermented froth, commonly called cuckow's ſpit. Here they are nouriſhed for ſome time, and then drop down into the graſs, and in about a fortnight or three weeks time after this they are in perfection. It is a beautiful fine bait to fiſh with, but very tender.

AFTER the legs are taken off, it is to be drawn upon a leaded hook, in the ſame manner as the cod-bait, and then to be moved about a foot or nine inches from the bottom. Your line muſt be very fine for a yard or more above the bait, conſiſting of ſingle hairs, if you have any ſtrong enough, or elſe of fine graſs or ſilk-worm guts: the reaſon why it muſt be thus fine is, on account of the quickneſs of its ſinking; for the quicker it ſinks the more freely the fiſh take it.

You may begin to fiſh with this bait about the middle of June, and continue morning fiſhing till the middle of Auguſt, if the water be in order, for which it ought to be very fine and low. I have caught with this bait, pike, trout, grayling, pearch, botling, roach, and dace, and am ſure that

all

all pool fish are equally fond of it, for i a very natural food both to pools a rivers.

THE first flight of the Grass-hoppers all dead or destroyed by the middle July, but they leave young ones enou behind to succeed them; these conti till the coldness of the weather destr them, and this last flight (as I suppo lay their eggs in the grass, to preserve species till the next season.

The CABBAGE WORM, CABBAGE GRUB.

THIS is an insect produced fr the white butterfly, and may found, about the beginning of May, cabbage leaves.

THERE is another sort of grub whicl called the Sleeper, because he lies q and concealed in the hearts of cabbag never appearing on the outside leaves the speckled one does: his back is o dark brown, and his belly of a beauti

green, finely ribbed. This is found from the beginning of July to the latter end of September, in the hearts of cabbages: he proceeds from the brown butterfly, and is of a harder nature than the other.

THERE is a third ſort that is of a dull green colour, which alſo lies quiet in the hearts of cabbages, and is the leaſt of the three.

I have put all theſe ſorts of grubs into a box, and found that they changed into three different ſorts of butterflies: the Speckled grub was the white butterfly; the Sleeper was a dark brown butterfly; and the Green one was a light dun butterfly, with two little circles in his wings of a different colour, reſembling two eyes.

THESE are all the palmer worms that I know of which belong to cabbages.

THE Cabbage Grub is to be uſed about the ſame time with the cod-bait, when it will not be improper to be prepared with them both, for the fiſh are as fickle in their diet as any thing I know, changing their food half a dozen times a day, bottom and top, and ſometimes they will prefer the Cabbage Grub to the cod-bait.

You muſt fiſh with a line the length of the rod; the bottom of it muſt be fine, that

that the bait may ſink the quicker. Uſe a large ſized worm-hook, very well leaded, for it is a large tough bait; and fiſh with it in the ſame manner as the cod-bait, in ſtill waters, curls, and ſtreams. It is a very beautiful tempting bait.

THE firſt ſort continue till the latter end of June; and after that there are very few to be ſeen till the end of Auguſt, when they are ſucceeded, in great quantities by the others. Theſe grubs, and graſs-hoppers, are the beſt bottom baits till the latter end of October, and may be uſed till twelve o'clock every morning; and then, if you are inclined to change your bait, you may uſe the little pale blue fly with ſucceſs, which the graylings are particularly fond of; for they love to take the Cabbage Grub or graſs hopper in a morning, and to ſport themſelves with the flies in the afternoon.

OF

OF MINNOW-FISHING:

OR,

Trouling with the MINNOW.

THIS ſport comes in about the beginning of March, if the water be fine and low, and continues till the latter end of May. It is a very eager ſport, and an excellent bait at the clearing of the water; it is beſt to be fiſhed with from one o'clock till ſun-ſetting, becauſe at that time the flies and inſects have drawn the fiſh out upon their feed, and then they will run very eagerly at the Minnow.

AT this ſport you muſt have a very ſtiff top-rod, and a ſtrong line about the length of the rod, with a very large hook, long in the ſhank, and well covered with lead to the bend of the hook. The minnow

now is to be drawn upon the hook, beginning at the head, and the point of the hook to come out a little above the tail. This is to be uſed (chiefly) in very rapid ſtreams, which help to give the Minnow a briſk and natural motion, and thereby encourage the largeſt trouts to take it.

IN this way of fiſhing it is neceſſary to have a ſwivel or two in your line, as well to help the Minnow to play, and turn freely and eaſily, as to prevent your line from twiſting or breaking. You muſt likewiſe obſerve to draw your line with a pretty quick motion up the ſtream; and, when you ſee the fiſh run at it, as you frequently will, take care that you do not ſnatch away the bait through ſurpriſe, which is a caution that the moſt experienced anglers are not always ſufficiently guarded againſt.

OF

OF

MAGGOT-FISHING.

BEFORE I lay down any directions for uſing this bait, I ſhall give the beſt directions I can for breeding them.

FOR this purpoſe you are to take a beef's liver, lights, or lungs, or a ſheep's head (but livers are the beſt). After it is ſcored with a knife, hang it up and cover it, but not too cloſe, for the flies will blow it better covered than hanging in the open air. In two or three days after you perceive the maggots to be alive, take down the liver, and put it into a barrel or large earthen pan, and there let it remain till you think the maggots are of full growth. Then take a ſufficient quantity of bran, in proportion to the ſize of the liver, and in three or four days the firſt brood will come out of the liver into the bran,

and

and there ſcour themſelves. Then in three or four days more take a ſtick and run through the liver, and hang it acroſs the barrel or pot, when the latter brood will ſoon drop out into the bran, and ſcour themſelves for your uſe.

THIS is the beſt method to prevent their turning to ſeemingly dead blackiſh grubs, and from thence to flies. I have known a fly-blow changed into the dead ſtate of a grub, and from thence into a fly, which has produced other flies, in the ſpace of fifteen days; but this was in the hotter months.

IF you are willing to preſerve Maggots all the winter, you muſt get two or three livers about the beginning of November; and, if it be a favourable ſeaſon, the flies will blow them as ſtrongly as in the hotter weather, in order to preſerve their kind againſt the next ſummer. Theſe are to be managed in the ſame manner as the other, only kept ſomewhat warmer till they come to their full growth, and then throw in a good quantity of bran, which will ſecure them from froſt in winter: they are to be kept in a cellar or ſome dampiſh place, in the barrel or pot they were bred in. Thus

you

you may preſerve them all the winter, and at any time, if the weather will permit, have them ready for uſe.

I SHALL, in the next place, give a particular account of Maggot-Fiſhing, which I look upon to be the beſt kind of bait that ever was invented, and of moſt general uſe for killing fiſh, either in rivers or ponds.

THIS fiſhing comes in the beginning of May, and continues till after Chriſtmas; but the beſt time for taking the grayling in rivers, is from the middle of Auguſt to November, though theſe fiſh are not out of ſeaſon all the winter, and will take no other bait, at that ſeaſon, ſo well as the Maggot. It is in general to be preferred ten to one above any other bait that I know or ever heard of, for all ſorts of freſh-water fiſh (except ſalmon, pike, and ſhad,) will feed upon this bait in a very plentiful manner. There is not any ſort of fiſh that I know of in the rivers Severn, Wye, and Teme, but I have taken with this bait; except the three above-mentioned. Likewiſe, if gentlemen and ladies are inclined to angle in ponds, this bait will take carp, tench, pearch, bream, roach, dace, eel, &c.

&c. It is the beſt bait for quickneſs of ſport; for upon throwing in a few handfulls of them, by little and little before you begin to fiſh, you will by that means draw the fiſh together, and they will pick up the baits from the bottom, juſt as the poultry will pick up their food from the ground; ſo that when you come to the place to fiſh, they will be waiting there in expectation of more food, and you will be certain of ſport.

THOUGH there are ſeveral ſorts of ground-baits and paſtes recommended, for baiting the holes where you fiſh, yet none of them are comparable to Maggots, which will draw all the fiſh upon feed thirty or forty yards up the river. It was formerly the practice to bait the hook with the Maggot, and to bait the holes with other ſorts of ground baits, which, in my opinion, could afford but little ſport, for neither trout, grayling, or pearch will eat grains, ſtewed malt, paſtes, or any ſuch dead baits, and therefore it is neceſſary to bait the holes with the ſame you put upon your hook; living baits, when thrown into the water, being much more tempting than dead ones, and make the

the fiſh more eager. I have ſometimes loſt a hook in a grayling's mouth, and in a minute's time have caught the fiſh again, and recovered the hook, which I found in his mouth.

To confirm this, I may add what happened to ſome gentlemen of great diſtinction, whom I attended a fiſhing in the river near Oakley Park; who, by the clearneſs of the water, plainly ſaw me draw the graylings and other fiſh about me, by throwing in, by degrees, a few handfuls of Maggots, and diſtinctly obſerved their manner of feeding; and afterwards, when they ſtruck away two hooks in two fiſhes mouths, they took notice that thoſe particular fiſh never moved out of their ſight till they hooked them again, and caught them, each of which weighed two pounds. This induces me to believe, there is no bait ſo tempting (for grayling eſpecially) as the Maggot; for I could never find by any of my brother anglers, that there was any bait wherewith they could tempt the fiſh to bite again ſo ſoon and ſo often after they had once been hooked. I confeſs a grayling is the moſt free biting fiſh that I know, and the moſt eaſily taken, and therefore when I have had great ſucceſs in

taking a good diſh of fiſh, I have been ſuſpected by ſome perſons of uſing oils and allurements; whereas, in fact, they were caught by Maggot-Fiſhing only.

THIS is a way of fiſhing as eaſily learnt as any I know; the greateſt difficulty is to find out the moſt proper feeding places: for which purpoſe, obſerve in general, that all ſorts of fiſh love to lie deeper upon their feed in clear water, and ſhallower in muddy water. You may fiſh without a float, but the common method is to uſe one.

WHEN you fiſh in rivers with this bait, you muſt fiſh with a hook from N°. 6 to N°. 9, according to the foulneſs or clearneſs of the water; your line muſt be finer than for pool-fiſhing, and you muſt lead pretty heavy: the lower link muſt be a ſingle hair, or a fine ſilk-worm gut; and always obſerve that your ſhot drags upon the bottom, eſpecially in a ſtream.

OF

OF

WORM-FISHING.

THERE are a great variety of Worms, but I ſhall deſcribe thoſe only which are moſt uſeful to the angler.

The FLESH-COLOURED RED WORM,

OR, as he is ſometimes ca'led, the Dunghill Red Worm, is to be commonly found under old thatch, or that and dung mixed together. This ſmall and knotted, and of a bright red. There are ſome to be found in moſt dunghills.

The BRANDLING,

IS a very beautiful worm, ſtreaked from head to tail in round ringlets, one ſtreak being red and the other yellow. He is chiefly found in dunghills conſiſting of horſe dung and hogs-dung mixed together; and you may ſometimes find very fine large ones among the ſhavings of curriers leather, mixed with a little earth: but hog's-dung and horſe-dung mixed breeds the greateſt quantity.

The LITTLE GILT TAIL, *or* TAG WORM,

IS of a pale yellow towards the tail, and ſhorter than the dunghill red worm, but knotted like it. He is commonly found among old horſe dung, and you may probably find theſe three ſorts in the ſame dunghill.

The

The PEACOCK RED, *or* BLACK-HEADED WORM,

IS to be found under cow-dung, or horſe-dung three parts dried, in the fields. He is to be met with from the latter end of April to the biginning of Auguſt under cow-dung chiefly, with his head an inch above ground; and I could never find any of this ſort in any other places.

THE reaſon of his being called the Peacock Red Worm, is becauſe his head is of as fine a gloſs as the harl of a peacock, and very near the ſame colour. Some take him to have a black head; but if they view him when he is well ſcoured, they will find him of a different colour. He has a flat broad tail, and is a very good worm at bottom-fiſhing.

The LOB WORM, *or* DEW WORM.

IS beſt in ſeaſon from the beginning of May till the beginning of Auguſt, and

may be fiſhed with all ſorts of ways, ſometimes at bottom, ſometimes at mid-water, preaching with them for eels, bobbing with them tied in knots, on ſilk or thread, &c.

LOB Worms are of two ſorts, but of the ſame kind; the older are knotted, the younger without knots, which, for diſtinction ſake, are called Maiden Lobs, as having never bred, and are by ſome called Red Lobs. Of both ſorts, ſome have a broad ſpreading tail, and are more red-headed than the others; they have a ſtreak or liſt along the back, and being longer and tougher, are more valued for taking large fiſh.

The WHITE WORM, *or* MARL WORM,

IS chiefly found in marl or clay land, and commonly after the plow tail. His head is very ſmall, and of a pale red, and his tail is tagged with yellow. The other part of his body is nearly of the ſame colour with the earth he is bred in; but when he is ſcoured, he is of a pale white.

The

The DOCK WORM, *or* SQUIRREL-TAIL,

IS a fine pale red worm, without knots, which is chiefly found in moiſt places, near dock roots; and is beſt diſcovered by ſhaking the earth with a dung fork. This is the beſt earth worm for carp or tench of any that I know.

The SEDGE WORM,

IS commonly found in the hollow part of ſedges near the roots. He has a black head and whitiſh body, and is as tender as the young waſp-grub, and about an inch in length. This worm is not to be found in any other place but the roots of ſedges; and is a very good bait for fiſh, eſpecially in thoſe pools were ſedges grow.

The COW-DUNG BOB,

IS to be found from the latter end of April till the latter end of July, under cow-dung half dried He is of a whitiſh yellow with a red head. It is a very tender bait, and muſt be uſed with the ſame line and hook as the maggot. They are to be put into ſome of the earth from under the cow dung where they were found, and if kept cool and moiſt, you may preſerve them three weeks or a month.

THE uſual manner of keeping and ſcouring worms in wet moſs, is ſo well known, that I need not ſay any thing of it.

TROUT-FISHING *with the* WORM,

COMES in the latter end of February, and continues good till the middle of May, particularly mornings and evenings,

THE

THE beſt Worms that I know for this ſport are the little red worm, the brandling, and the white worm, which ought to be well cleaned. Your hook ought to be N° 2 or 3, fixed to a good Indian graſs or ſilk worm gut, and your lead about nine inches or a foot from your hook: if the water be low three duck ſhots will be enough; but if high, five or ſix. Your line muſt be a foot, or a foot and a half longer than your rod, if it be an open gravelly river you fiſh in, but if incumbered with trees or buſhes let it be a foot or two ſhorter. You muſt always be ſure, in an open river, to let the point of your rod go before your body, keeping your lead upon the gravel, for then your line fiſhes well; and the reaſon of having your line ſo much longer than the rod, is to keep yourſelf as much out of ſight as poſſible, eſpecially in clear water; but in a muddy water, there is no neceſſity of having your line any longer than the rod.

WHEN you arm a hook for Worm-fiſhing, keep the link on the inſide, whipping a briſtle along with it, and this is done to prevent your bait from ſlipping, otherwiſe it will be apt to ſlip down into the bend

bend of the hook and choak it up, that it cannot catch hold of the fiſh.

THIS is the beſt method of bottom-fiſhing with the Worm that I can direct. There is no neceſſity of having the line longer than the rod for any other ſort of bottom-fiſhing.

Of PALMER WORMS.

THERE are ſeveral ſorts of little grubs and worms, of various colours, to be found in the ſummer time on the leaves of trees and buſhes, which are called Palmer Worms.

Theſe are beſt to be got by beating and ſhaking the boughs of oaks, crab-trees, hawthorns, or other buſhes that grow over highways or other bare and open places, where you may moſt conveniently find them, and gather them up after they are fallen. When you have got a ſufficient number of them, in order to keep them for uſe, you muſt put them in wooden boxes, each ſort by themſelves, and feed them with ſome of the freſh leaves from the

the tree they were taken from. You muſt feed them five or ſix times a week, and be ſure you take the withered leaves from them as often as you give them freſh ones, and you muſt obſerve to make little holes in the boxes to give them air. All the ſorts are very natural food for fiſhes, as well in rivers as ponds.

THREE of theſe ſorts are to be made artificially, viz. the Brown Palmer Worm, the Black Palmer Worm, and the Red Palmer Worm.

THE Brown Palmer is made of a hog's down, dyed of an amber colour, ribbed with ſilver twiſt, with a red cock's hackle over it. The Black Palmer is made of an oſtridge's black feather, or the feather out of the top-knot of a plover, ribbed with gold twiſt, and covered with a black hackle. The Red Palmer is made of reddiſh coloured mohair, ribbed with gold twiſt, and a red hackle over it.

THESE Worms are to be fiſhed with either at top or bottom: at top, you muſt fiſh with them in the ſame manner as with the artificial fly; and at the bottom, in the ſame manner as with the cabbage grub or graſs hopper, made artificially upon a leaded hook.

I ALWAYS found theſe baits moſt proper to be fiſhed with in the ſame manner as worms or maggots, and in this way you muſt angle with a pretty fine hook, about N°. 4. Let your float keep the bait four or five inches from the bottom, either in river or pond.

THIS is likewiſe an excellent bait for bobbing at the buſh, with a fine bittern's feather wrapped about the upper end of the ſhank, and the bait drawn down upon the bend of the hook, and if there are any fiſh upon feed near it they will not refuſe it.

THIS bait, when it firſt drops off the boughs, often ſwims down the water, by reaſon of the web it is involved in, which bears it up; when the trouts, which are lurking under the boughs in expectation of the prey, will ſeldom let them eſcape.

Of the BEETLE.

ANOTHER bait which I have not yet taken notice of, and which is ſometimes of great uſe to the angler, is the Beetle. This is of different colours, the

the one quite black, the other of a duſky red. Each ſort has two pair of wings, one over the other; the uppermoſt hairy and hard, the undermoſt ſoft and tranſparent, which, when expanded and ſtretched out, are much longer than the other, and of a bluiſh colour. The red ones are eſteemed the beſt, and both may be found in horſe-dung or cow dung, three or four days after it has been dropt in the fields, from the time that cattle go out to graſs till about Michaelmas.

WHEN you uſe them, clip off their hard wings, and hang them on your hook with their legs towards the water. Your line muſt be ſtrong, and about a yard and a half or two yards long, and ſo bob or drop for large trouts or botlings, under banks or buſhes, in clear bright weather.

THERE is a ſort of little worm or inſect which I took particular notice of ſome years ago, and found in prodigious numbers upon the orl trees and buſhes about Michaelmas. I ſometimes obſerved fifty or ſixty of them upon a leaf: they were then about the ſize of a barley-corn, but, in about a fornight, they came to be near an inch long. They eat all the leaves from

off

off the orl trees for half a mile up the river, and appeared in ſuch infinite ſwarms, that there was ſcarce a leaf to be ſeen on a tree or buſh. When they had deſtroyed the leaves, they fell into the river, and I found the trouts, graylings, and dace, had fed plentifully upon them, and were gorged with them.

THESE worms had black heads, four feet under their throats, and a black liſt down their backs, with two yellow ſtreaks on each ſide, from head to tail. I perceived they could hang faſt by the tail, when the reſt of the body was looſe and diſengaged I never before took any notice of theſe worms, though I had obſerved the inſects near the river, during the courſe of my practice, for many years; yet, no doubt, ſome of them, more or leſs, may be found every year: but this was a ſight new and ſurpriſing to me, as well as to many others who ſaw them.

IT may be remarked, that each inſect owes its being to a male and female; and proceeds from an egg, in which is incloſed the ſeed and firſt nutriment. The female makes choice of ſuch place to lay her eggs in, as appears to her moſt commodious, and

and where ſhe ſuppoſes there is heat ſufficient to hatch them; and where her young when releaſed from their confinement will find all convenient ſubſiſtence. And let ſuch as are fond of novelty, and entertain the vulgar notion, that inſects (all, or many of them) derive their exiſtence from corruption, becauſe we find worms, and ſometimes flies in all corrupted matter, remember, that they thereby caſt a great reflection on the author of nature, and become a reproach and diſhonour to human reaſon. For, whoever beſtows the leaſt ſerious thought on inſects, thoſe diminutive creatures, whoſe ſtructure is performed with ſuch evident harmony and contrivance, which are provided ſo well with all things needful, and perpetuate their ſpecies in one form without the leaſt variation, muſt either acknowledge that they are the creatures of an almighty power, or fall into the abſurd doctrine of chance, and allow them to be the reſult of the fortuitous concourſe of ſome humours which have been altered and diſplaced. I call this abſurd, for it is ridiculous to the laſt degree to imagine that chance acts, or to affirm that ſhe acts with any deſign, regularity, or precaution. The ſame all-wiſe providence

providence that engages our admiration in the ſtructure of a human body, is equally conſpicuous in the formation of an inſect: and putrefaction is no more the parent of inſects than of larger animals, or of man himſelf.

THUS have I now given my reader a full account of all the baits, natural as well as artificial, and have laid down the beſt and plaineſt directions I am able, when, and in what manner to uſe them, ſo as to conduce moſt to his diverſion; and ſhall now take my leave of him in the celebrated words of the poet;

——— *Si quid noviſti rectius iſtis,*
Candidus imperti; ſi non, his utere mecum.

FINIS.

[redacted]

-u/-

HE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

This book is under no circumstances to be taken from the Building

NOV 16 1917

LENOX LIBRARY

Purchased in 1873.